

Clinton is confident peace could be achieved in Cyprus

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bill Clinton said after meeting the new president of Cyprus Friday "we have the best chance we've had in quite a long time" for a peaceful resolution of the dispute between Greek and Turkish Cypriots.

President Glafos Clerides said earlier he saw a "glimpse of hope" for ending the 19-year impasse between the two communities of the island and intended to ask Mr. Clinton for a U.S. guarantee of a settlement.

After their meeting, Mr. Clinton said, "We want to do what we can to promote a good agreement there and we're going to be actively involved in working toward a peaceful settlement. The talks are just about to start again and I don't think I should say or do anything which could disrupt them."

The two presidents met in advance of Mr. Clerides' negotiations next week at the United Nations with Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş.

Mr. Clinton also said, "I really appreciate the attitude he (Clerides) has taken, and I think that we have the best chance we've had in quite a long time to have a peaceful, successful completion of these talks."

The Greek Cypriot leader said he only came to attend the talks because he had received assurances that the U.N. Security Council will renew the mandate for the U.N. peacekeeping force on Cyprus for another six months on June 15.

If the U.N. troops stationed along a "green line" separating zones controlled by the feuding Turkish and Greek Cypriots pulled out, it would have created "an explosive situation," Mr. Clerides said.

Countries providing troops have threatened to withdraw them, citing lack of progress in the 19-year Cyprus negotiations.



U.S. President Bill Clinton (right) Friday meets with Cyprus President Glafos Clerides at the White House (AFP photo)

9 Iraqis, 4 Saudis killed in clashes at Rafha camp

RIYADH (AP) — The government disclosed Saturday that 13 people were killed in a violent clash between Saudi security men and Iraqi refugees in a camp near the Saudi-Iraqi border more than two months ago.

Another 12 Iraqis were injured in the March 9 riots, sparked by the Iraqis' demand that the kingdom open its borders to more refugees fleeing Iraq, the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said.

It was the first official word of any disturbances at the Rafha camp, set up in 1990 for an estimated 45,000 Iraqi prisoners of war (PoWs) or Shi'ite Muslims who fled their country.

Quoting an informed source, a spokesman for a government spokesman, the Saudi agency said the authorities withheld news of the riot until investigation was completed.

It said refugees equipped with "domestically manufactured swords and hatchets" gathered at the gates of Rafha camp and began pelting Saudi guards, demanding that infiltrators from Iraq be allowed into the camp.

Despite a two-year-old Saudi decision not to allow any more Iraqis into the camp, authorities agreed to give women and children coming from Iraq sanctuary at Rafha, it said.

"But they persisted in their violence against the guards and began trying to dislocate the perimeter wires near the gate," the agency said.

Fire engines poured water on the demonstrators seeking to disperse them, but when that failed guards fired in the air.

Demonstrators inside the camp then stormed a complex of buildings housing education, medical and administration offices.

A refugee was shot in the shoulder as he tried to seize the weapon of a Saudi guard, the agency said. The Iraqis prevented an ambulance from reaching the wounded man. They also blocked Saudi volunteer teachers who tried to help him, and he bled to death.

The demonstrators carried the body on their shoulders, and thousands of refugees then joined the rampage, smashing windows and setting cars and buildings on fire.

In one of the buildings set alight four Saudis burned to death, the agency said.

"At this point, the (guards') command had to use force and fire in the air, while fire brigade cars fought the blaze. Three persons (demonstrators) died and 17 were injured," the agency said.

Five of the injured demonstrators later died of their wounds, it said.

Participants in the demonstration later confessed that the riot was aimed to "force the Saudi authorities to allow the infiltrators that came across the international borders to join the camp," the agency said.

"Quoted the official source as saying that the incident would not affect the services extended to the refugees. But the source also stressed that the government would not allow any acts that threaten 'order and security' at the camp.

Some 7,000 of the camp's residents have been granted asylum in third countries and would be leaving this year, according to recent statistics released by the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

Some 1,456 refugees chose repatriation after the end of the 1991 Gulf war that ended Iraq's seven-month occupation of Kuwait.

Most of the refugees are Shi'ite dissidents who tried to topple the Iraqi government after the Gulf war.

Iraq replaces vanishing change with banknotes

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq's central bank is issuing new small-denomination notes to replace coins, which have been disappearing from circulation because they can be melted down to extract silver.

Baghdad newspapers have accused smugglers, goldsmiths and even dentists of melting down the old coins.

The dentists' union issued a denial Saturday that coins were being recycled into patients' teeth. "The silver in the coins cannot be used for fillings," Dr. Ghalib Al Jassim, head of the union, said.

Current is a constant headache for Iraqi officials struggling against post-Gulf war inflation and the effects of U.N. trade sanctions.

Pre-war notes, trusted by users because they were printed abroad and harder to forge than newer locally produced bills, were withdrawn from circulation two weeks ago.

A central bank statement carried by Baghdad newspapers on Saturday blamed the scarcity of coins on "suspicious elements using the metal coins for purposes other than money circulation to wreck the national economy."

The Defence Ministry newspaper Al Qadisiyah said: "The central bank has taken the necessary measures to check the phenomenon of the scarcity of small coins in circulation and in cooperation with the concerned authorities."

"The bank and the ministry of finance have told security organs to take the necessary measures to stop contemptible dealings using small change for illegal ends," Al Qadisiyah said.



Egyptian antiquity experts Thursday inspect the paintings inside a pharaonic tomb discovered near the Giza Pyramids (AFP photo)

Egyptians find 3,200-year-old tomb

ABU SIR, Egypt (R) — Archaeologists have found a 3,200-year-old underground tomb near the Pyramids of Giza and say it might be part of an entire previously unknown necropolis.

"We are in front of a very big discovery," the director of the Egyptian Antiquities Organisation (EAO), Mohammed Ibrahim Bakr, told reporters Saturday outside the tomb, cut into a sand-covered slope of rock rising above the village of Abu Sir.

The tomb consists of a limestone-paved courtyard and a room cut into the rock at one level and a series of four chambers underneath stretching deep into the desert hillside. It was built for a man named Nakh-Min, "overseer of chariots" and "messenger to foreign lands."

Ramses the Great reigned for 67 years in the 13th century B.C. during the new kingdom period of ancient Egypt, when the pharaoh controlled a military empire stretching into what is now Jordan and Syria.

The three pyramids of Giza, 12 kilometres north-west of Abu Sir, and the pyramids and tombs of Sak-kara, just to the south, all belong to the much earlier old kingdom, which began about 5,000 years ago. The area is just beyond the southern outskirts of Cairo.

"It might be the beginning of the discovery of a whole necropolis in Abu Sir," said one of the EAO archaeologists working on the site. "This is the first time to have new kingdom tombs here."

Mr. Bakr said the tomb was discovered three weeks ago. Khaled Mohammad Abu Ma, an EAO inspector at Sak-kara, said villagers had found a hole leading to the upper-level room.

The brick, mud and thatch houses of Abu Sir are built right up to the slope which concealed the tomb.

"The police told the inspectors that there are some people stealing from the place here. We did not know whether there was a tomb here or not, so we decided to excavate the area and we were fortunate to find the tomb," he said.

The third of the four underground chambers, about four metres square and 1.5 metres high, is decorated with figures of animals-headed gods, representations of gateways and inscriptions from the "book of the Gates," a book of spells to guide the soul through the underworld.

Mr. Bakr said it was the first time the Book of the Gates had been found in a tomb in the Sak-kara-Giza area.

The paintings are outlined in black on whitewashed plaster. They were not colored in, as ancient Egyptian wall paintings usually are, and look unfinished. As if Nakh-Min died unexpectedly and the tomb had to be made ready in a hurry.

The floor of the chamber is paved with rock which has collapsed from the "roof" above. Labourers are cutting wooden "props" to prevent further collapses and clearing sand from other chambers.

The fourth chamber, beyond and below the third, is still largely blocked with sand and rock.

Kaaba washed in traditional ceremony

MECCA (AP) — On behalf of King Fahd, Mecca Governor Prince Majed early Saturday led the ceremony of the washing of the Holy Kaaba, Islam's holiest shrine around which the Grand Mosque of Mecca is built.

The ceremony took place as customary on the first day of Zuhl Hijla, the Islamic calendar month during which Muslims from around the world gather at Mecca for the annual Haj, the pilgrimage that is one of the five pillars of the faith.

The washing of the Kaaba, known as "ghusl," was attended by senior Saudi Arabian officials, accredited diplomats and some of the Muslims dignitaries who have arrived in Saudi Arabia to perform Haj.

So far more than 600,000 Muslims have arrived in the kingdom for the Haj.

The number is increasing day by day with an average of 26,000 arrivals daily by air through King Abdul Aziz International Airport in Jeddah. Thousands of others arrive by sea or by land.

Among those arriving by land are thousands of Iraqis through the kingdom's northwestern border crossing at Arar. Thousands of Libyans, whose country is under civil aviation embargo come through the Sinai by sea or land via Egypt.

The floor of the structure with water from zamzam, a nearby well which has been running since the days of Prophet Ismail. Ceramic brooms and rose water are also used.

The inside of the Kaaba structure is then incensed with frankincense. Embedded in the side of the structure is the black stone dating to Prophet Abraham's days.

After the washing, the water was carried away in small buckets with pilgrims who crowded the grounds of the Grand Mosque rushing to get a drip of the liquid they see blessed, and chanting Allah Akbar.

The Kaaba was also Saturday dressed in its new black velvet kiswa, the outside covering dress.

The kiswa is an impressive work of art done solely by Saudi craftsmen in a factory specially built in Mecca for the purpose. It costs more than 17 million Saudi riyals (\$4.5 million) and is made up of 47 different pieces of each 14 metres long and 95 centimetres wide.

Embroidered with verses from the Koran, the kiswa is intricately woven with gold and silver threads.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Senator introduces bill on Libya sanctions

WASHINGTON (AP) — A U.S. senator Friday introduced a bill which would carry tough penalties for companies and individuals who violate United Nations sanctions against Libya. Senator Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut said the law is needed because of continued violations of the U.N. sanctions, ordered in 1992 to force Libya to give up for trial in Britain or the United States two suspects in the 1989 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Scotland.

The sanctions banned air traffic to and from Libya, and sale of arms, aircraft, aircraft spare parts and related services to Libya. The new law would prevent any company which violates the sanctions from doing any business in the United States. It would increase the fine for Americans who violate the trade sanctions to \$100,000. It would increase the penalty for Americans who continue to work in Libya despite a U.S. prohibition on travel to Libya to \$50,000 for missing their passports. Mr. Lieberman said in a statement that the State Department estimates there are about 500 Americans still working in Libya, mainly in the oil industry. His bill would also facilitate relocation in the United States of any person who helped prevent "terrorist" acts against the United States or in the capture of a wanted "terrorist." Mr. Lieberman, a Democrat, said he consulted with officials of President Bill Clinton's administration in drafting the legislation.

Saudis announce Haj month

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia declared the start of the Muslim Holy Month of Dhu'l-Hijja Saturday, giving the go-ahead for the annual pilgrimage to Mecca. The pilgrimage reaches its climax on May 30, the ninth day of the Muslim month when more than a million white-robed pilgrims will gather at Mount Arafat — the site where the Prophet Mohammad preached his last sermon 14 centuries ago. Pilgrims then collect stones to throw at three monuments representing Satan and the following day, May 31, Muslims celebrate the start of Eid al Adha (feast of sacrifice), their most sacred feast.

Crocodile goes missing in Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — Police are scouring Tel Aviv for a Nile crocodile after its owner reported him stolen, dangerous, and in need of plenty of tender loving care. "His bite tears off flesh," owner Ami Dotan told the Associated Press, "but without proper care and feeding, he will die." Tel Aviv police spokesman Gadi Doron confirmed police were on the lookout for the 1.20-metre crocodile, since Mr. Dotan reported the theft Thursday night. Police were considering publishing the crocodile's photo in newspapers if it was not recovered by Sunday. The stolen crocodile was part of an exhibit for a tourist fair on Tel Aviv's beach front. Mr. Dotan, who runs a reserve which is home to 1,000 crocodiles in the Jordan Valley, said he discovered the theft when he noticed a tear in the exhibit fence. "It could have been anyone," Mr. Dotan said. "Thousands of people have asked me if they could buy one as a pet — of course they can't." Mr. Dotan issued a warning saying the crocodile was dangerous over Israel's radio network. "If whoever stole him lets him loose on the streets, there could be trouble," he said. "Larger versions prey on lions and tigers."

Kohl to fight against Arab boycott of Israel

NEW YORK (R) — German Chancellor Helmut Kohl has told Jewish leaders that he will lead a drive to have the European Community (EC) states bar compliance with the Arab boycott of Israel, the World Jewish Congress (WJC) said Friday. Reporting on a private meeting that Mr. Kohl recently had with WJC President Edgar Bronfman and German Jewish leader Ignatz Bubis in Bonn, a WJC spokesman said Germany this month instituted stringent regulations that bar German companies from complying with the boycott. "Kohl also said that he will seek similar regulations within the EC that bar compliance with the Arab boycott," the spokesman said. He added that the Clinton administration has told the WJC that the United States, at this summer's Group of Seven meeting of industrial powers in Japan will seek a statement barring compliance with the boycott. The German regulations which went into effect on May 1 bar German companies from issuing so-called boycott declarations, statements requested by Arab countries that companies are neither trading with Israel nor trading with companies that trade with Israel. The United States has had a similar law in effect for the last dozen years.

2 killed while planting bomb in Lebanon

MARJAYOUN (AP) — Two guerrillas were killed Saturday when a bomb blew up as they tried to plant in Israel's self-styled "security zone" in South Lebanon, security sources said. They said the pre-dawn explosion occurred on a road near the village of Debel in the western sector of the "security zone." The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the guerrillas apparently had infiltrated into the zone during the night to plant the bomb. Their identities and affiliation were not immediately known.

U.S. forces treating Somalia veterans for malaria

WASHINGTON (AP) — About 40 U.S. army soldiers and Marines at bases across the country have come down with malaria since returning from duty in Somalia, officials said Friday. All are being treated with primaquine, a medicine designed to eradicate the parasite. In addition to the cases diagnosed after return to the United States, 46 U.S. service people were treated — all successfully — for cases of malaria while they were still in Somalia, 20 cases of malaria have been diagnosed at Fort Drum, New York. Army spokesman Major Rick Thomas said four soldiers based in North Carolina and Georgia also contracted the disease, which is a parasitic infection transmitted by the bite of a mosquito. Ten malaria cases returning from Somalia, according to Captain Perry considering, as a precaution, giving anti-malaria treatment to all soldiers who have left Somalia, with or without any symptoms, are participating in the Somalia humanitarian mission. Some remain as part of a United Nations peacekeeping force. All soldiers and Marines who served in Somalia were told ahead of time to take infection, officials said. Capt. Bishop said some apparently did not strictly follow the instructions.

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
17:30 Les Cles de Fort Boyard
19:00 News in French
19:15 Le Journal de L'histoire
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
21:30 Executive Stress
21:40 The Good Guys
22:00 News in English
22:30 French Series

PRAYER TIMES

03:59 Fajr
05:29 (Sunrise) Duhr
12:32 Asr
16:13 Maghreb
19:25 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifeth, Tel. 810740
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 634590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasana Church Tel. 622666
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Armenian Church Tel. 636851, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771231
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 625226
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 828264, 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fair and some clouds will appear at various altitudes. There will be a chance for scattered showers of rain, especially in the southern and eastern parts of Jordan, and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Amman, it will be partly cloudy and dusty, with a chance for scattered showers, while winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman 25 per cent, Aqaba 30 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Salma Daboubi 776751
Dr. Ramzi Mizzawi 794788
Dr. Yousef Elda 694916
Dr. Yousef Sammour 615648
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 716336
Al Amman pharmacy 637055
Nairooth pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsiah pharmacy 637660
Jabb pharmacy 847632

AMMAN:
Ramses Police 192, 61111, 63777
Fire Brigade 891226
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 63021
Hotel Complaints 695800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Reps 623101
Abdull Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

ZARQA:
Dr. Fawaz Hamdon 985417
Khalaf pharmacy 985417

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630344
Rescue 779
Civil Defence Emergency 192, 61111, 63777
Ramses Police 891226
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HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hassan Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Aldah Maternity, J. Amn 644412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malha, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Mustashfi Hospital 672219
The Islamic, Abdull 661275/7
Al-Ahli, Abdull 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajres 777101/2
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marfa 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Zarqa Hospital 674135

Company 636861
RJ Flight Information 08-33200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-33200

Greek Catholic Hospital (02)72275
The Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)914111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)33200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:25	Bangkok (RJ)
06:35	Aqaba (RJ)
06:45	Jeddah (RJ)
06:50	Jeddah (RJ)
06:55	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
07:00	Singapore, Jakarta (RJ)
07:05	Bahrain (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:25	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
06:30	Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
06:35	Athens (RJ)
06:40	Frankfurt (RJ)
06:45	Viena (RJ)
06:50	Rome (RJ)
06:55	Paris, Brussels (RJ)

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07:20	Frankfurt (RJ)
07:25	Viena (RJ)
07:30	Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
07:35	Viena (RJ)
07:40	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
07:45	Rome (RJ)
07:50	Athens (RJ)
07:55	Riyadh (RJ)
08:00	Jeddah (RJ)
08:05	Jeddah (RJ)
08:10	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
08:15	Singapore, Jakarta (RJ)
08:20	Bahrain (RJ)

MARKET PRICES

Up/Down price in fils per kg

Apple	700 / 700
Banana	650 / 650
Banana (Mukammal)	650 / 650
Beans	540 / 450
Cabbage	70 / 40
Carrot	150 / 90
Cauliflower	250 / 180
Cucumbers (large)	240 / 180
Cucumbers (small)	200 / 180
Eggplant	200 / 180
Garlic	250 / 200
Gracfruit	240 / 180
Lemon	300 / 250
Marrow (large)	50 / 30
Marrow (small)	150 / 100
Mint	80 / 80
Onion (dry)	230 / 140
Onion (green)	280 / 180
Orange	400 / 250
Pepper (hot)	450 / 350
Pepper (sweet)	200 / 150
Potato	210 / 160
Tomato	220 / 200
Spinach	250 / 200

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Home News

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, MAY 23, 1993 3

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Princess Basma to inspect Mafrq

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Sunday will visit Mafrq governorate to inspect social development services to the villages of Um Niam, Buweida, Hawamdeh, Manshieh and Sirhan. She will be accompanied by Minister of Social Development Amin Awad Mashaqbeh.

Prince Abdullah visits PSD

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Bin Al Hussein Saturday called at the Public Security Department (PSD) and met with Major General Abdul Rahman Al Udwan, the department director, in his office. The Prince also met with senior police officers and the PSD inspector general.

Arab Geographers thank Crown Prince

AMMAN (Petra) — Saturday participants in the Arab meeting on Geographic Information and Remote Sensing which concluded in Amman last week sent a cable to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, thanking him for his patronage of their meeting and his directives. They also voiced their pride in Jordan's leadership and people and thanked them for the hospitality they were accorded during their stay in Amman.

Abu Jaber meets with PLO's Abed Rabbo

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber Saturday met with member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee Yasser Abed Rabbo who conveyed to him a message addressed to His Majesty King Hussein from Palestine leader Yasser Arafat. The message deals with the developments in the Middle East peace process. Dr. Abu Jaber and Mr. Abed Rabbo exchanged views on the outcome of the ninth round of Arab-Israeli peace negotiations and preparations for the next rounds. The meeting was attended by the Palestinian Ambassador to Jordan.

Minister says Saudi government providing all pilgrims' needs

JEDDAH (Petra) — Minister of Awaqaf and Islamic Affairs Izzeddin Al Khatib Al Tamimi, who is at present in Saudi Arabia at the head of the Jordanian pilgrimage delegation, Saturday met with his Saudi counterpart, Sheikh Abdul Wahab Abdul Wase'. The two ministers discussed issues related to the pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina, as well as facilities and services extended by the Saudi government to the pilgrims. Sheikh Tamimi said following the meeting that all official delegations leading pilgrims in Saudi Arabia received from the Saudi government all their needs and demands.

Valley office begins 8-day health education

NORTH SHUNEH, The Jordan Valley (Petra) — The northern Jordan Valley district Social Development Department Saturday embarked on a health and social education programme in various parts of the district. The Director of the department said the programme, which is being implemented in cooperation with the Mother and Child Care Centres in the region, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) and charity societies, will deal with issues ranging from social integration to begging. He added that the eight-day programme will also include lectures which will shed light on the role of charitable societies, their purposes and goals in the society, the objectives of the National Aid Fund (NAF), disabilities, child care, nutrition and birth control.

Amman education office honours King

AMMAN (Petra) — The Greater Amman First Education Department Saturday organised a celebration marking the 40th anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's assumption of his constitutional powers and Independence Day, which falls on May 25. The celebration included dances and songs, poetry recitals and theatrical shows. In observance of the two occasions, the Kuffanja Sports Club in Ajloun district also organised a celebration which included speeches, national songs and dances and sports events.

Zarqa honours King with exhibits

ZARQA (Petra) — An exhibition of books and handicrafts was opened Saturday at the Al Hashimiyah Vocational Training Centre in Zarqa. The exhibition, held in observance of the 40th anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's assumption of constitutional powers, includes cultural, religious, scientific, economic and political books, in addition to photos of King Hussein's meetings with heads of state and visits to Jordanian cities and army units. The exhibition also includes works by students at the centre. Another exhibition of plastic arts was opened Saturday in Mus'ab Basie School in Ramtha city.

Birth control group advises residents of Sahab

SAHAB (Petra) — A mobile clinic operated by the Jordanian Birth Control Society Saturday organised a free medical advice day in Sahab. Lecturing doctors spoke to the local residents about the importance of birth spacing and child diseases.

Egyptian petrochemical team tours industries

AMMAN (Petra) — A team of workers representing the petrochemical industries in Egypt Saturday toured several industries and met with union leaders. The team, whose members will later hold talks with Jordanian workers union leaders, were also accompanied on tours of archaeological sites.

Engineers to attend water workshop in Libya

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Engineers Association (JEA) will participate in a workshop on water sources in the Arab World scheduled to start in Tripoli, Libya Monday. The JEA will be represented at the three-day workshop by engineers Mohammad Abu Taha and Ali Al Khalil. The workshop, according to Mr. Abu Taha, will discuss water projects in the Arab World, dams, water pumping projects and the preparation of an atlas on water in the Arab World. He said the Jordanian delegation will submit to the workshop two working papers on water sources and uses, and the water recycling projects in Jordan.

Jordan to attend ILO conference in Geneva

AMMAN (Petra) — The General Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions will take part in the meetings of the 88th International Labour Organisation (ILO) conference which will open in Geneva June 1. The conference, expected to last for three weeks, will discuss union freedoms, workforce movements and international conventions on labour-related issues.

Yemeni envoy says Jordan's democratisation is a model to be followed in Arab World

AMMAN (Petra) — Yemeni Ambassador to Jordan Ali Abu Lahhoum Saturday described the democratisation process in Jordan as a model that should be followed in the Arab World, expressing his hope that the Arab states will take more steps in the direction of democracy on the basis of political freedom, pluralism, respect for human rights and public participation in decision-making.

In an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, on the occasion of the third anniversary of the unification of Yemen, Mr.

Abu Lahhoum praised His Majesty King Hussein's and the Jordanian people's support for Yemen in its democratisation process and its building of a modern state.

He stressed the closeness of Jordanian-Yemeni relations in all fields, saying they reflect the desire of the two peoples to enhance bilateral cooperation between them within a democratic framework.

The Yemeni envoy called for developing inter-Arab relations and bolstering pan-Arab cooperation and underlined that soli-

Arab-German trade group chief outlines ways to boost commerce

AMMAN (Petra) — Luthar Spaeth, head of the Arab-German Chamber of Industry and Commerce, Saturday met with officials from the Jordanian public and private sectors and called for further bolstering of Jordanian-German trade and industrial cooperation.

Speaking at a meeting with Industry and Trade Minister Abdullah Ensour, Mr. Spaeth said the two countries can boost their trade balance through joint investments in small and medium size industrial projects and an increase in reciprocal flow of national products.

He also said that Jordan and Germany can promote cooperation in the transfer of technology and in economic fields.

Regarding the Middle East, Mr. Spaeth said Germany supports efforts for the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of U.N. Security Council resolutions.

Mr. Spaeth, who arrived here Friday on a three-day visit to Jordan, reviewed with Dr. Ensour bilateral trade and prospects for boosting industrial trade and scientific and cultural cooperation.

Dr. Ensour outlined the Kingdom's incentives to encourage foreign investors and urged Germany to import more Jordanian national products to help adjust the balance of trade which, he said, is heavily in favour of Germany.

many. The minister said that this can be done through raising Bonn's imports of Jordanian phosphate and potash.

Referring to developments in the past years, Dr. Ensour said the standard of living in Jordan took a turn downwards as a result of the wars and the sudden waves of expatriates and migrants arriving in the Kingdom.

But he voiced Jordan's gratitude to Germany for helping to support the Kingdom's national economy over the past decades.

Under agreements signed in 1960 upgraded in 1974, Germany and Jordan concurred on economic cooperation and the protection of investors' capitals in either country.

The Ministry of Industry and Trade said Jordan last year imported JD 153,518,500 worth of German products and sold Germany JD 1,005,400 worth of Jordanian products.

Discussions of Jordanian-German trade and economic cooperation also took place at a meeting between Mr. Spaeth and Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker in the presence of Dr. Ensour and Khalid Abu Hassan, the president of the Amman Chamber of Industry.

The two sides reviewed ways to promote industrial and trade cooperation and areas where Jordan can benefit from German expertise in light and heavy in-

dustries, as well as in communications and health fields.

Mr. Abu Hassan met earlier with the German official who praised German-Jordanian economic relations over the past three decades.

Dr. Spaeth stressed that he intended to gather more information on Jordanian industry and the Kingdom's investments and economic system.

Urging the private and public sectors in Jordan to promote German-Jordanian cooperation in economic fields, Dr. Spaeth said Jordan was eligible to play a prominent economic role in the region because of its proximity to Europe and its central geographical location.

Mr. Spaeth pledged that the Arab-German Industrial and Commercial Chamber of Industry will play a major role in providing Jordanian exporters with information and data about European markets.

He urged the Amman Chamber of Industry to dispatch a team to Germany soon, to follow up on the present discussions and to examine German and European markets.

Following the initial talks, Mr. Spaeth and his delegation gathered with Jordanian businessmen for the first workshop during which they conducted a general review of local and German markets, prospects for exporting Jordanian products



HIS MAJESTY King Hussein Saturday receives at the Royal Court Luthar Spaeth, head of the Arab-German Chamber of Industry and Commerce to review German-Jordanian cooperation and current efforts for further increasing German investments in Jordan and the transfer of German technology to the Kingdom. Mr. Spaeth paid tribute to King Hussein's efforts to enhance democracy in Jordan

to Europe, questions related to standards and specifications and other economic and trade-related matters.

Mr. Spaeth met later with age German companies to set up joint ventures with Jordanian businessmen in the Kingdom and Jordan's exports to Germany. They reviewed ways to encour-

Jordan, Morocco to reduce duty on specific items traded

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian-Moroccan joint economic committee, which last week ended a meeting in Rabat, agreed on partial and full exemptions of customs duty on defined lists of commodities produced and exchanged between both countries.

The Jordanians and Moroccans will now exchange lists of products they wish to have exempted from duty according to the agreement, said Marwan Awad, secretary general of the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

The two sides also agreed to a number of steps to be taken mutually, to facilitate participation of businesses in trade fairs held in Morocco and Jordan and the formation of a follow up committee to pursue the implementation of agreements, said Mr. Awad.

He said the committee also decided to study proposals prepared by a task force that met in Amman in December last year, pertaining to promoting means of transporting of goods.

In industry, the two sides agreed that Jordan would benefit from Moroccan handicraft industries and Morocco will provide Jordan with experts to organise training programmes in handicraft techniques.

Also, the two sides agreed on promoting cooperation in tourism-related fields, in implementation of a 1978 tourism protocol.

The joint committee decided to hold another meeting in July in Amman, according to Mr. Awad.



HER ROYAL HIGHNESS Princess Sarvath Al Hassan Saturday opens an exhibition of paintings by plastic artist Rafiq Al Lahham at the Royal Cultural Centre. The exhibition, entitled "The 40th Exhibit," includes 80 paintings depicting human suffering, nature and Islamic manuscripts and ornamentations. The opening ceremony of the exhibition, which will last until the end of the month, was attended by Minister of Culture Mahmoud Al Samra. Mr. Lahham, who is one of the founders of the Jordanian Plastic Artists Association and the Arab Plastic Artists Federation, has won several awards, including the 1991 State Arts Award and the 1992 Plastic Artists Award. He was presented in 1981 with the Golden Shield and Medal of the Arab Plastic Artists Federation (Petra photo)



UNICEF praises Jordan's efforts in child care, health protection

AMMAN (J.T.) — UNICEF (the United Nations Children's Fund) Saturday praised Jordan's efforts in child care and health protection noting that the Kingdom was among the first few countries to endorse the 1991 United Nations Convention on Child's Rights.

UNICEF senior official Nihad Kanawati told a seminar on child care, organised by the agency at the Amman Marriott Hotel, that through its diligent efforts over the last two decades, Jordan has been able to sharply reduce its infant mortality rates.

The seminar was called to examine the results of a recent survey conducted by UNICEF in cooperation with the Ministry of Health to determine the

level of nutrition among Jordanian children under five years of age.

The survey was conducted on a random sample of 800 children from Jordan's various governorates, according to UNICEF sources.

Jordan has been able to make major achievements in health areas despite difficult political and economic circumstances facing the country since 1989 and the sudden increase in its population from the forced return of more than 300,000 Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates from the Gulf placing additional burdens on the health services, said Ms. Kanawati, UNICEF's senior programme officer.

According to Mamoun

Maabreh of the Health Ministry, the survey was conducted in order to compare nutritional levels among children with international standards and also to determine the social and economic effects in the general health and nutrition of Jordanian children.

The health ministry announced recently that infant mortality rates dropped in Jordan from 67 per 1,000 live births to 37 per 1,000.

Health Minister Aref Al Bataineh addressed the session, noting that malnutrition was plaguing 20 per cent of the world's population, mainly women and children.

WHAT'S GOING ON

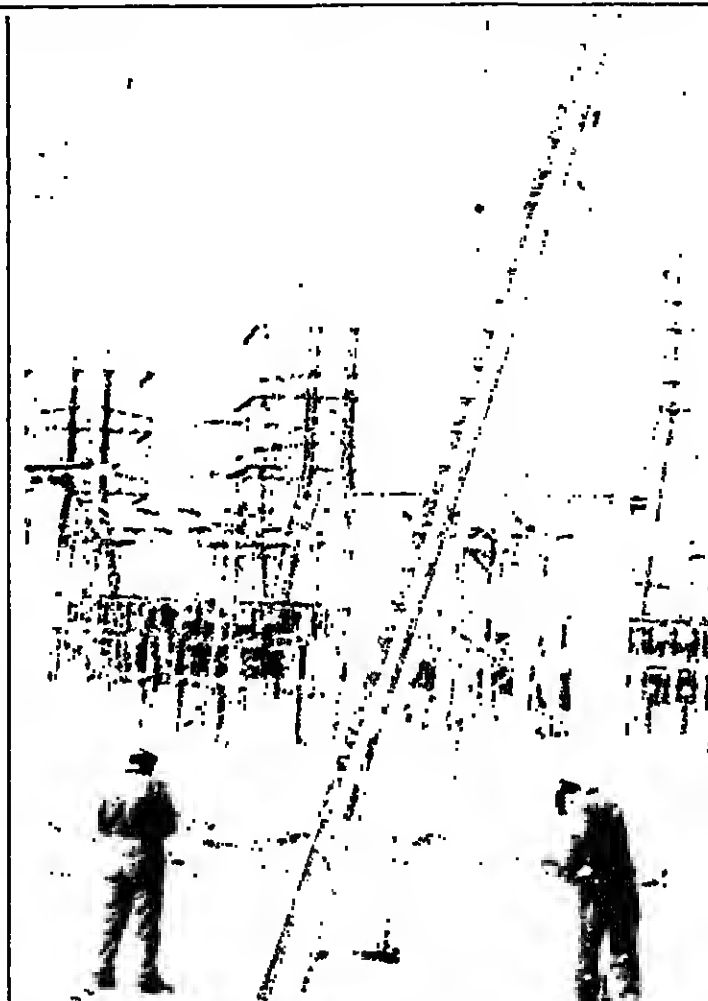
The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition entitled "Fragments: Weavings and Works on Paper" by Kevin A. Huch and Margaret M. Huch at the American Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Patrice Pain at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Armenian miniature exhibition adapted by Clara Metzghopian at the British Council.
- ★ Exhibition of sculptures by Artist Abdul Hayy Musallam at Baladna Art Gallery.

FILM

- ★ 1975 feature entitled "Dog Day Afternoon" at 6 p.m. at the American Centre (130 minutes).



The Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) expects to complete its rural area electrification projects by year end 1994 (file photo)

6 firms win tenders for rural power projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) Saturday announced that six tenders worth JD 2 million have been awarded to local firms to set networks of medium voltage electric power that will benefit 218 villages and settlements with a total population of about 75,000 residents.

JEA director General Mohammad Arafah said the project is part of a general electrification scheme, covering 451 villages and settlements in the rural area as originally announced by the government last year.

Next month the JEA will announce other tenders for laying low voltage networks and for the

installation of 8,000 poles to carry cables extending 451 kilometres.

The electrification project in the rural area, according to Mr. Arafah, will cost JD 25 million. Funding for the project is being supplemented by the additional one fil per kilo watt charge levied on consumers since last year.

Mr. Arafah said at least 500 engineers, technicians and workers will be needed to carry out this project.

He added that the end of 1993 will see the electrification of at least 200 villages and settlements and complete electrification of the country is expected by the end of 1994.



IN GRATITUDE

With all their love and thanks Fouad and Ahla Sayegh extend to MISS RULA C. NABEEL & MISS RACHEL THOMAS their heartfelt gratitude for the grand piano recital they gave last Wednesday the 19th of May on the fourth memorial of

LOUAI SAYEGH

The grand performance and the noble music surpassed the bounds of time, and quickened the moment with the mystical essence of the eternal world of beauty where all, who believe, will dwell with their beloved into eternity.

Fouad and Ahla, as well, extend their deepest appreciation to all who shared with them the occasion, and endowed the evening with a smile to remember inspite of the continuum of sorrow and grief.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Now Israeli referendums override international laws?

THE ISRAELI people could very well be divided over the issue of withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. The radicals among them would contend that the West Bank and Gaza are parts of "greater Israel" and the Palestinians living there are aliens who ultimately should be evicted and expelled. The moderates would not mind pulling out of the occupied territories, or most of them, and would like to see the Palestinians gain their national rights. That, however, does not give the Israelis the licence to decide the future of the occupied territories either in a referendum or otherwise. International law that overrides all other national laws or national will has resolved that Israel should withdraw from the occupied territories.

The Israeli prime minister, Yitzhak Rabin, might hope that by holding a referendum the Israelis might say yes to withdrawal. That might be the result and it might not. But the fact remains that such a referendum is illegal from an international point of view. There is no pretext other than Israel's claim that the occupied Palestinian lands were "disputed lands." And even when that is the case, it is not the Israelis — the occupiers — who should be polled whether or not they should withdraw, but the Palestinians, the owners of the land and its inhabitants for hundreds of years. Of course it is more than obvious that the Palestinians want the Israeli occupation to end and it has cost them dearly in blood to get their message through to the Israelis and the entire world. It is therefore highly immoral of Rabin to intend to poll the Israelis on the issue.

Mr. Rabin does not need a mandate to withdraw from the West Bank and Gaza, the mandate is embodied in U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338 and all the other pertinent resolutions including 181, which originally partitioned Palestine between Palestinians and Jews. It is therefore incumbent on Palestinians, Arabs and the U.N. to oppose such an Israeli move.

What Mr. Rabin should be doing, for which he got a mandate from the Israeli people, is pressing ahead for peace and for complete withdrawal. This last chance for peace need not be wasted for the sake of internal Israeli politics. The interests of the Israeli people and the peoples of the whole region do not depend on who is in power in Israel. Nor does it depend on the narrow interests of the Israelis themselves. The choice of peace should not be left for radicals, either on this or that side. What is needed are bold policies and bold decisions. The march for peace has already been started. It should not be derailed for whatever reason.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

EVERY TIME the Palestinians and the other Arabs try to increase efforts to reach peace, Israel steps up its repression in the occupied Arab lands and hardens its position at the negotiating table, said Al Dustour daily Saturday. To be noticed also, is the fact that Israel's malpractices tend to intensify during the peace sessions, something which was particularly apparent during the ninth round of talks, to whose failure contributing, the paper noted. It seems that Israel still lacks understanding of the fact that violence and oppression can only breed violence, frustration and desperation, said the paper. The Israelis have already tried their futile malpractices in a bid to stifle the intifada, but these practices have all ended in failure, said the daily. Nothing short of respect for the Palestinian people's human rights and the right to self-determination can satisfy the Palestinians or end the intifada, added the paper. Israel's present policies, which are backed by its allies, do not help end the violence in the region, and Israel's intransigence at the negotiating table can by no means bring Israel closer to the Arab states, stressed the paper. It said that the Palestinian people would not stop the intifada as a price to be paid for peace which does not take into account an exchange for land for the full implementation of U.N. resolutions on the Palestine problem.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour daily commented on a statement by the head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, Dr. Haidar Abdul Shafi, noting that the man has justly demanded a suspension of the Arab-Israeli talks as they are heading nowhere. Being a Gazan, besieged like his fellow Gazans by the Israeli troops and living a miserable life due to the continued repression and occupation, Dr. Abdul Shafi's demands are justified as they reflect his deep frustration, said Taher Al Udwan. The writer said that while the Arabs will continue discussions on whether to participate in the next session, once the Eid Al Adha is over, the U.S. would be exercising new pressures on the Arab governments to return to the negotiating table with Israel and making new empty promises to them. It would be most reasonable for the PLO to respond favourably to Dr. Abdul Shafi's demands simply because the nine sessions have all proved futile, the writer said. It has to be mentioned that by its previous consent to participate in the talks, the PLO had exposed itself to severe criticism by its friends and opponents alike, said the writer. He said that should the PLO go to the 10th session, it would no doubt risk losing Palestinian people's support, as long as the head of the delegation is demanding a suspension of the negotiations, the writer said, such a call is worth considering by the PLO leadership because Dr. Abdul Shafi is in a position to know if the talks were achieving progress or not, the writer pointed out. He said that since the ninth session was a fiasco, thanks to the U.S. empty and false promises, there is no reason for any Arab party to involve itself in further discussions with Israel.

When peace is water under the bridge

By Robert Fisk

THE LITANI River, southern Lebanon — four Lebanese soldiers guard the bridge over the Litani. Beneath its concrete supports and below the wreckage of the iron railway bridge the Israelis destroyed in 1976, there froths one of the great rivers of antiquity, mentioned in the books of the Egyptian 19th Dynasty, known to the ancients as the Leontes, muddy and dark, wasting itself in the Mediterranean. Waste being the operative word. In spring the Litani is a torrent, pouring through the valley below Beaufort Castle, sloshing through the front lines of Israeli occupation troops and Lebanese soldiers, racing through the orchards north of Tyre before exhausting itself in the sea. No wonder the Israelis watch this river with so much desire; no wonder the Lebanese army guards it so jealously. In any Middle East peace treaty, the name Litani will be almost as important as the signatures.

Already its flow and precipitation is being calculated by the nations that may benefit from its waters in the aftermath of peace. Lebanon produces 10 billion cubic metres of water a year, enough to satisfy threefold the total annual water deficiency of Syria, Jordan and Israel. Lebanese water, in the opinion of one of the country's economists, Marwan Iskandar, represents the single most important potential for technical cooperation between Arabs and Israelis if — if — their 45-year conflict comes to a formal end.

It is easy to identify the economic consequences of peace. Syria could sell oil and gas to Israel at world market prices, Israel could sell its agricultural technology to Syria, while a future Palestinian state — if that is what is to be born — may develop a fishing industry in Gaza linked to a new agricultural and industrial base in the West Bank, not to mention (as Israelis already know) a cheap labour market. The World Bank, Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology are already working on plans for the cooperation of Israel and the three remaining frontline Arab states and a Palestinian "entity".

The optimism that drifts across from the peace talks in Washington — from the Israelis, Jordanians and Syrians rather than the Palestinians — may be illusory. Whatever concessions the Israelis appear to make in Washington, their army's repression in Gaza — and their previous covert assistance to the fundamentalists in an attempt to counter Yasser Arafat's influence — is fuelling a civil war between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the Islamic resistance movement Hamas, a conflict that might provide a convincing excuse for refusing to leave the West Bank.

When Israel retreated from the Chouf mountains and then Sidon, its armies of both Christians and Druze militias produced just such a civil war in Lebanon. And without a Palestinian settlement, there will be no peace in the Middle East, no matter how many signatures are scribbled across a treaty.

Nevertheless, it may be time for all sides to look at the economic opportunities and disappointments peace would bring. For Israel, an end of the Arab boycott — which Israel claims has cost it more than \$40bn. For Palestinians, an end to oppression and the start of international Palestinian trade.

For Israel and Syria, a massive reduction in the military — 20 per cent of Israel's population is currently in the armed forces; 10 per cent of Syria's. The massive foreign debts of Israel (\$34bn), Syria (\$20bn) and Jordan (\$10bn) are largely defence costs. The United States will probably exercise its usual generosity by wiping out Israel's debt, and Syria may get away with repaying only half its bills to the former Soviet Union.

and Eastern Europe.

Israel could sell fruit and flowers to its Arab neighbours. Yet the entire agricultural balance of the region could be changed if Lebanese water were harnessed. According to Mr. Iskandar, Lebanon could — with new dams and electricity generating stations and billions of dollars of investment — irrigate large areas of Syria, Israel and Jordan and provide itself, Syria and Israel with electrical power.

With a blindness typical of U.S. policy towards the region in the mid-Eighties, the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington think-tank, examined the Middle East's water resources the failed to include Lebanon, on the grounds that it had enough water and was anyway "politically unsettled". Needless to say, the study included Iraq, although Saddam Hussein was then waging war against Iran.

Syria's new tourist agreements with Lebanon — bus tours already take visitors from Beirut to the Roman ruins of Palmyra in Syria — could be extended to Jordan and on to the new Palestine and Israel. But Israel may find itself disappointed by the fruits of peace. It is unlikely to reap much benefit from the oil and gas industries when Western conglomerates control so much of the Gulf's resources.

"Lebanon produces 10 billion cubic metres of water a year, enough to satisfy threefold the total annual water deficiency of Syria, Jordan and Israel."

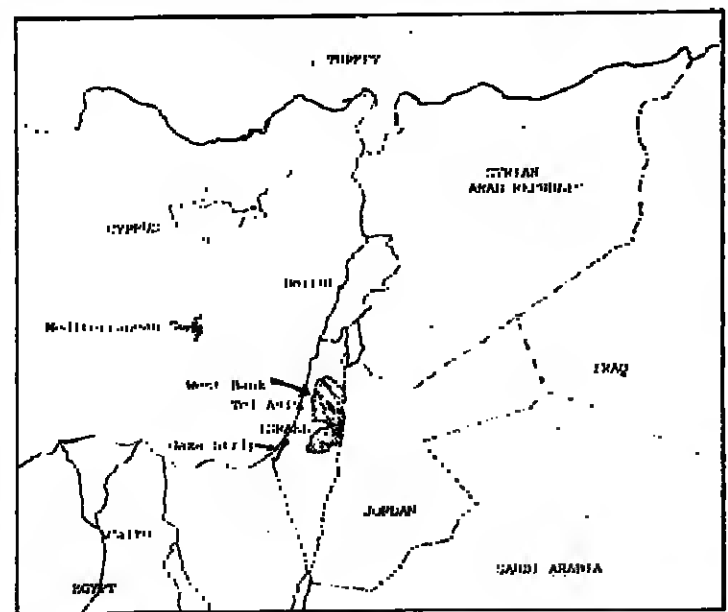
Israeli banks could have difficulty competing with the big international Arab-Jewish bankers (who already demonstrate how well the two peoples can work together in finance). Textiles in Syria are cheaper than in Israel. Lebanese wine is incomparably better than Israeli wine. As Mr. Iskandar points out, Israel produces the best surgical instruments and its competence in cut diamonds is undeniable. But who will want to buy its sophisticated weaponry?

There are suspicions, too, among the Arabs that the dimensions of "peace" could be greater than any of them realise. A Syrian journalist, cynical enough to require anonymity, believes that post-peace development programmes would be regional rather than Arab-Israeli. "You're going to find the Americans will want to bring in Turkey, their new policeman to the north. They want Turkey to control Iraq. Turkey controls the Tigris and Euphrates, which run into Syria and Iraq. Then Iraq will want to be involved, politically if not economically. What will this mean?"

And who will want to invest in the Middle East if the gale force winds of the Islamic revival make the signatures on any peace treaty irrelevant? Lebanon, with its large Christian community and cosmopolitanism, may have ridden the Islamic storm successfully. Syria resolved it "satisfactorily", in the words of the Syrian journalist, in the bloody 1982 repression of the Hamas rebels who wanted to turn Syria into an Islamic republic.

But is Jordan safe? Is "Palestine"? And what about Egypt, whose earlier peace treaty yielded so few dividends? Will the Arabs who sign up for peace have to deal as ruthlessly with their Islamists as Syria did?

Which raises the dark suspicion that if the Arab regimes at peace with Israel were "de-Islamised", there might be the makings of a future Arab-Israeli alliance. Who against but Iran? Is that what the "peace" talks in Washington are leading to? — The Independent.



Sunday's Economic Pulse

Imposition of sales tax is inevitable

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

After the successful encounter on Jordan Television with Finance Minister Basel Jarrah, aired last Tuesday evening, the outspoken opponents of the sales tax, who filled the atmosphere with their noise in the name of the poor, the limited-income groups, the local industries and the consumers, found themselves in a real embarrassing situation similar to a political and intellectual scandal.

Mr. Jarrah is known to be extremely truthful. Even his policy opponents never doubted his credibility. What he said in the interview was very simple and straight forward. Following are the main points:

— The sales tax is not a new or additional tax, it is merely an improved and reformed version of the consumption tax which is currently in force.

— Replacing the current consumption tax by the sales tax will not cause any net increase in the tax burden payable by the people; if anything, the end result is a net reduction.

— The application of the sales tax and the abolishing of the consumption tax will not result in any increase in the cost of living index or, for that matter, cause a net rise in the level of prices in the country.

— The sales tax will expand the base of the tax to include some 26 new commodities, most of which are nonessential or luxurious. Only seven of them are manufactured locally. Examples: Artificial flowers and window umbrellas.

— The bulk of the commodities traded in the market will not be influenced by the application of the sales tax, because the sales tax which will be charged to them is exactly the same as the consumption tax, no more, no less. The prices of some of the remaining commodities, (luxury goods) will rise slightly while the prices of others, (basic goods) will decline. The number of commodities that will become cheaper is more than that of commodities which will become more expensive. The overall end result is in favour of the consumers, especially the poor and the limited-income groups.

— A number of commodities which are now subject to tax will be exempted as soon as the sales tax law becomes operative. The

prices of such commodities will decline. They are all basic goods, essential to the poor and low-income groups. They are mostly related to food, medicine, baby supplies and students' amenities. — There will be no change as far as imports are concerned. Both the present consumption tax and the sales tax which will replace it have the same rates and are applicable to the same base, i.e., the cost, insurance and freight (CIF) value, thus the price of imported goods will not be altered.

— What is new for the national industry are the facilities and advantages produced by the draft law of the sales tax to replace the stringent and complicated procedures and heavy fines under the current consumption tax.

— The passage of sales tax law is urgent and could not be deferred because it is an integral part of the economic adjustment programme, without which we will have to take alternative fiscal measures, much harsher than the sales tax. We may find ourselves without a programme if the IMF decided that Jordan defaulted and did not abide by the programme. Such an eventuality will bring us back to square one as far as the crisis of foreign indebtedness and shortage of foreign exchange is concerned. We shall also lose the soft loans and outright grants, which are badly needed, at least in the coming five years and which are now flowing to the treasury from the industrialised countries and the international institutions such as the World Bank and the IMF.

Of course, the minister should have addressed the public earlier, to convince the people and have them on his side, instead of leaving the public opinion to be misled by uninformed demagogic politicians and columnists who were able to mobilise public opinion against the sales tax based on false information.

After the convincing facts regarding the sales tax, all political parties, unions, and writers who raised their loud voices against the sales tax are required to apologise for the noise and distortion they have created. The government should also go ahead and issue the sales tax law and protect the country's economic achievements, including fiscal and monetary stability, high investment rate and unprecedented economic growth.

Bosnian Serb army chief didn't want to be soldier

By Paul Holmes
Reuters

PALE, Bosnia — General Ratko Mladic, the Bosnian Serb army chief of whom the world has heard so much, reaches across the table and offers cigarettes.

"Come on," he says. "Let's smoke the pipe of peace." It is night and Gen. Mladic, a stocky, pug-nosed 50-year-old career officer western diplomats call the Bosnian Napoleon and a ruthless fanatic, is relaxed and smiling.

He had just signed a ceasefire with the commander of the Bosnian Croat militia to complement a truce he has struck with the commander of Muslim-led government forces his army have all but defeated in 13 months of civil war.

Muslims and Croats, former allies against the Serbs, are fighting each other in the city of Mostar, digging what Gen. Mladic calls a "mass grave" for themselves in the Neretva River valley.

Serbs in Bosnia-Herzegovina have just finished voting in a referendum certain to reject a U.N.-backed peace plan which Gen. Mladic regards as part of a plot led by Germany and the Vatican to divide the Orthodox Christian world.

"I'm fed up with fighting," Gen. Mladic said. "Right now I could push them (Muslims and Croats) into the sea but I don't want to do that. I want this resolved by political means."

Gen. Mladic leads an army in control of 70 per cent of Bosnian territory on which Bosnian Serb political leaders are defiantly trying to carve out a republic of their own.

Apparently untroubled by the prospect of possible western air strikes or action on the ground by foreign troops whom Gen. Mladic says will "leave their bones" in Bosnia, the general says the world can do nothing about it.

On Monday, Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic apologised for "irresponsible and emotional" threats at the weekend by the outspoken Mladic to bomb western cities if the West intervened in Bosnia.

Born in World War II in Kalinovik in eastern Herzegovina, Gen. Mladic has been one of the paramount military figures in almost two years of ethnic fighting in the shattered Balkan federation.

In the 1991 war of secession in Croatia, he headed the Yugoslav army corps in Knin, seat of the rebel republic Serbs have declared in the one third of Croatia they have seized.

Last May, he was named head of the Yugoslav army in Sarajevo. Days later the Yugoslav army pulled out of Bosnia and Gen. Mladic took over command of the Bosnian Serb army.

"I didn't want to be a soldier do I like weapons," Gen. Mladic said in a two-hour interview that ranged over the Yugoslav conflict, his lonely childhood and his views on religion, communism and mother Serbia.

"I wanted to be a surgeon and it's a pity I didn't study medicine...I thought I'd spend my life in peace," he said.



Ratko Mladic

unzipped a camouflage coat and the jerkin beneath. "Look, I'm not armed now," he said.

His words are stunning in the context of Bosnia, where Gen. Mladic's artillery has brought death and destruction to the besieged Bosnian capital Sarajevo and suffering to the Muslim enclaves of Zepa and Srebrenica.

"I regret that any civilians have been killed and suffered on our side or their side," Gen. Mladic said when asked about the Serb onslaught. The blame, he said, lay with Muslims.

"Would you tolerate it if I attacked your family? If I went to your home with a Kalashnikov, would you just sit back and do nothing if I killed your family?" he asked.

He is untroubled by the talk of a possible trial before a U.N. war crimes tribunal. "I don't have anything to be ashamed of, not in my life and not in this war," he said. "I defend my people. To defend one's people is the highest honour and duty."

Ratko Mladic grew up alone. His father, a fighter with Tito's World War II partisans, was killed fighting Nazi German occupiers in 1945 when Mladic was two. He left home and a sister and his mother, to whom he is devoted, at an early age for boarding school in Belgrade.

Despite his ability to breathe fire against those he sees as his enemies, Gen. Mladic can be charming and witty. He blames the media and their "monstrous lies" for the world's sympathy for the Muslims and his image as butcher of Bosnia.

He says he does not hate Muslims and Croats and has little time for religion despite regarding Bosnia's war as a step on the West's way to diminishing orthodox Russia "as much as possible as I did to Srebrenica and Zepa".

Though he says he respects Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance, co-authors of the peace plan, he is dismissive of attempts by foreign politicians to pacify the Balkans.

The first time he attended peace talks in Geneva, he said, he regarded Mr. Vance and Lord Owen as Gods. The next time he realised half the officials there "don't even know where Bosnia is".

"The third time I went I knew I was master," he said, referring to his knowledge of the military situation on the ground in Bosnia.

LETTERS

Brevity reads better

To the Editor:

I do not subscribe to Mr. K. A. Hluch's point of view, expressed in his letter to the editor (Cardinal points, Jordan Times, May 20-21, 1993) regarding Rami Khouri's column of May 11; and though I do not intend to discuss or analyse any of the two gentlemen's ideas, I openly and shamelessly declare that I usually share Mr. Khouri's opinion on the said subject, in its broad lines at least.

I had started reading Mr. Hluch's letter with interest; that is up to the last two paragraphs. What began as reasonable and acceptable criticism, presented with plausible arguments for the reader to accept or reject, ended in a cheap form of mockery with personal, offensive insinuations against Mr. Khouri.

True, democracy means Mr. Hluch is free to write in any form or style he chooses. I just want to tell him that the way he ended his letter made the whole of it much less believable. I just wish he did without the last two paragraphs.

Jean-Claude Elias,
Amman.

Tolerance on equal grounds

To the Editor:

Aboard a Royal Jordanian flight, in mid-air, I read with interest the article written by Zuhikha Abu Rishah about religion and nationalism (Religion and nationalism could forge a healthy nation, Jordan Times, May 15, 1993). Until I read the article, I did not know that religion, especially Islam, could be divided into "pure" and "political," and that the "pure" one which the writer believes to be the correct type, is the one which is practised by her mother and which caters for the needs of the spirit and the relationship between man and his creator.

Such a description of religion is not only secular but is also untrue for most religions, especially Islam. A glance through the Koran or, for this purpose the Bible, clearly reveals that these books of documented revelations do not only cater for man's relationship with God but also with his fellow human beings.

It is man who, for reasons of belief, disbelief or special interests, decides to take some or all of the teachings of religion. The secular movement in the West was in fact responsible for the reinterpretation of religion in favour of excluding it from any say in the running of peoples' mundane affairs. It is also true that secularists in many parts of the Muslim World have attempted to do to Islam what their counterparts did to Christianity in the West.

If a certain segment of the community adopts a secular interpretation of religion and struggles, using peaceful and democratic means, to uphold, enforce or spread such an interpretation and resorts to political power to ensure the accomplishment of its objective, why should opponents of this interpretation, who believe in the comprehensive and total adoption and implementation of religious teachings, be deprived of the right to do the same, and have political aspirations — just like the secularists — in order to ensure a full and proper implementation of the principles they believe in and defend?

Is there any fairness or justice in ascribing legitimacy to certain political ideologies while denying the same to others?

Ms. Abu Rishah is perfectly entitled to her opinion, but she certainly has no right to demand that her opponents be denied the right to be politically involved or active.

Although I am a strong believer that Islam, unlike many other religions, caters for spiritual and mundane requirements of man, and that it was revealed for the purpose of providing man with guidelines in all aspects of life, this is not the place or time to try and convince Ms. Abu Rishah that Islam is not what she believes it to be.

My main concern here is to invite Ms. Abu Rishah, secularists, liberals, Islamists and all groups of various ideological commitments and political programmes to agree on a basic common denominator, namely democracy.

In a democracy, people exercise their right to disagree and argue among themselves, but without any individual or group having the right alone to exclude others or prevent them from appealing to the people, who issue the final verdict.

We must all recognise the fact that a spectrum of opinions and degrees of varying intensity (from radicalism to moderation) exist in every human group or party or congregation. This applies to the Islamists just as it applies to secularists, liberals and others.

This phenomenon of variation is by no means characteristic to communities in the world, past and present, and will always manifest itself in the future.

The only means to deal with differences is to genuinely opt for democratisation, a process that is conditionally accompanied by tolerance and toleration.

Azzam Tamimi,
Centre for the Study of Democracy,
University of Westminster,
London.

Escalating violence from Islamist groups raises questions

By Tom Porteous

CAIRO, Egypt — Although the recent bomb explosions in Cairo's chaotic Tahrir Square could hardly be heard above the drone of traffic, the roar of bus engines and screams of car horns, the attackers could hardly have chosen a target which contains in one place more symbols of the establishment they seek to undermine.

At one end of Tahrir Square stands the largest and most despised department of the Egyptian bureaucracy, the Mugamma'a, where those Egyptian citizens who do not have access to some powerful patron must queue for hours and often bribe officials if they are to obtain indispensable documents, certificates and identity papers.

Next to the Mugamma'a is the American University regarded by the Islamic groups as a symbol of the cultural corruption and westernisation of the privileged layer of Egyptian society. On the other side of Tahrir Square the Egyptian Museum is not only one of the chief attractions for a tourist industry which the Islamic extremists have vowed to destroy, but also houses the treasures of a pre-Islamic Egyptian history which they feel should be ignored.

Beside the museum is the Nile Hilton, of which the bars, casino and discotheque are anathema to the extremists. The hotel is flanked on one side by the headquarters of the ruling National Party which has won every election since it was established and has consistently blocked attempts in the Egyptian parliament to secure a legal political role for the Islamic opposition. On the other side of the Nile Hilton is the Arab League which now coordinates cooperation between a number of Arab governments in what is a concerted campaign against political Islam throughout the Arab World.

The recent bomb attacks and other terrorist actions such as the shooting of policemen are pointing to an escalation of the conflict between the government and militant Islamic groups. Psychologically, the bombs in Tahrir Square have brought home to middle class Egyptians the fact that militant Islam is no longer a

phenomenon confined to the poor cities of southern Egypt or the overcrowded slums of Cairo and Alexandria. And the increasing violence has given the lie to the assurances of the Ministry of the Interior that the security situation is under control.

Inside the heavily guarded Interior Ministry, General Baha Al Din Ibrahim, director of the Public Relations Department, tries to minimise the problem. "This problem has been going on for a long time, for nearly half a century. It used to happen that these groups would carry out some attacks and then when the police faced them they stopped. This is what happened after the assassination of President Sadat (in 1981). This time we want a police force to root out the extremists, to put an end to their activities. We want society to feel safe from these groups for the next 10 or 20 years."

Until recently the violence associated with militant Islam was limited to rare assassination attempts against senior government figures, relatively sporadic sectarian vandalism and fairly regular confrontations between police and members of Islamic groups. On the whole, few people were affected by the violence or even knew that it was happening.

But gradually over the past few years the violence has become more widespread and more diverse in its nature. The Islamic groups began to single out writers and journalists as targets of assassination, as well as government officials. Then they hit at the tourist industry in Upper Egypt, they have brought their campaign right into the heart of Cairo. Every day now brings news of another attack, more arrests or a new counter-terrorist operation on the part of the police. And every day terrorism and extremism are the subject of numerous editorials and commentaries in newspapers, radio and television.

Much of the comment, as well as statements from the police, focuses on the international aspect of the wave of violence, especially after the bombing of the New York Trade Centre and the subsequent arrests of several Arab men. It is alleged by people

like Gen. Baha Al Din that the Islamic groups in Egypt are acting in cooperation with Islamic movements in other parts of the Arab World and that together, guided by leaders living abroad, they are planning their strategy for the whole region.

As proof of this, senior officers in the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior and officials in the Information Ministry point to the similarity between the wording of the statements of these groups issued in response to crises such as the Gulf war and the Bosnian conflict. Furthermore, according to Gen. Baha Al Din, underground tapes produced by different Islamic groups in different Arab countries as part of their propaganda campaign are clearly derived from one source. The police claim that different groups in Egypt, and in Algeria for example, but it is nothing in Libya and it is nothing in Saudi Arabia. In Jordan there is a problem but it is not to the same degree, not in the same style. You cannot say it is a severe problem for these countries. Of course they must be aware of it and expecting it and they have to protect themselves. But there is a big difference between those who face the problem and those who expect it."

Since the Iranian revolution in 1979 and the assassination of President Sadat by Islamic militants two years later, the Egyptian government has frequently accused Tehran of supporting Islamic groups in Egypt. Diplomatic relations have been almost non-existent. Now the Algerian government too, which used to have normal relations with the Islamic republic, has accused Iran of supporting the violent campaign of militant Islamic groups in Algeria and has cut diplomatic ties with Tehran. Egypt and Algeria also accuse Sudan, where the National Islamic Front has recently emerged as the ideological influence behind the military regime of President Omar Bashir.

"The main evidence we have against Iran," says General Baha Al Din, "is that Iran itself announced that one of its main policies is to export its Islamic revolution to other countries. As for Sudan, when we arrested

some suspects here they confessed that they took their training in camps in Sudan. That's the first evidence. And second, we have seized many different kinds of weapons coming from the south. Our police and the army are working together on the southern borders and we believe that most of the weapons in the hands of the Islamic groups are coming from Sudan. Can we say that the Sudanese government itself is involved in this traffic? At least it is sure that the government did not take any strong steps to stop it."

The alleged involvement of Sudan and Iran in support of the Islamic groups is used to justify the particularly harsh policies which Egypt, Tunisia and Algeria are now pursuing against the groups. Repressive tactics and counter-attacks are the main strategy of the Egyptian government. Yet observers point out that trying to cure some of the social ills and allowing Islamists to express themselves on the political scene would do much to defuse the situation.

And there is the problem of police behaviour: Human rights organisations in North Africa have now built up a substantial catalogue of abuses being carried out by the police in the campaign against militant Islam. Even if these abuses are not coordinated there seems to be a pattern of state violence and intimidation which some critics say is counter-productive. Arbitrary arrests, torture, military trials, the detention and torture of relatives of fugitive suspects including their wives and children, the deliberate killing of unarmed suspects by "death squads", the rounding up of all the young men in villages or slums — the dossier of abuses compiled by human rights organisations in the region makes depressing reading.

One of the achievements of the Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights (EOHR) has been not only to provide an insight into the dynamics of the conflict between the government and militant Islam, but also to question both the government's and the groups' version of the conflict. For instance Hisham Mubarak, a lawyer who has closely followed the trials of militant groups on

behalf of the EOHR, is convinced that Sudanese or Iranian support for the militants operating in Egypt is being overplayed. If foreign involvement plays a minor part in the problem, critics of the government's strong-arm tactics say, the effectiveness of these methods in the campaign against extremist activities should be questioned. After all, people point out — not only in private conversation but also in the main-line press — the problem seems to be getting worse not better.

The obsession of governments with a pan-Arab militant Islamic plot to destabilise the region has blinded them to the more important domestic sources of the problem of militant Islam, according to Fahmy Howaidi, a columnist at Al-Ahram, the largest Egyptian daily. "I think the main mistake of the government," he says, "is that they thought the people are difficult to admit that you have a problem inside the country. It is difficult to say that we are having

social, economic, political problems. It is easier to say those people are supported or provoked by certain external sources or organisations."

"As long as the government is closing doors against legal political Islamic activities," says Mr. Howaidi, "I think things will get worse. We talk about cooperation between certain Arab countries in the security field against Islamic groups. We should ask why are these countries having problems with Islamic groups. The main problem is that authorities are insisting in oppressing the Islamic political groups."

Mr. Howaidi points out that in Arab countries like Jordan where the Islamic opposition has been allowed to participate in political life there is no serious violent threat from Islamic groups. "As long as there remains this political exclusion of political Islamic activities," he says, "I don't think the issue could be solved peacefully and we can expect more deterioration and more violence because the people want to participate and they should have the right to participate politically as long as they accept the law and the constitution."

But in the midst of its increasingly violent battle against the groups, the Interior Ministry shows no sign of changing its hardline policy. "We cannot stop this struggle between us and the fundamentalist groups," says Gen. Baha Al Din. "This strong way of facing them will make a lot of people think very hard before joining such groups. As for those who are already working in the groups, probably when they see that a lot of their colleagues have been killed they will stop. If we stop now, we will have achieved nothing. We have had a lot of success. It is a policy we have to carry out not only for one or two months, but continuously and we have rearranged our forces to execute the policy throughout the country." — World News Link

assassination of President Sadat in 1981 (WNL photo)



At least 120 people have been killed in Egypt in the past year and the country has experienced its worst political violence since the

assassination of President Sadat in 1981 (WNL photo)

Russian police learning how to be cops — American style

By Matthew Schofield
Reuters

HUTCHINSON — At an abandoned cold war airbase in the rolling wheat fields of Kansas, five Russian police officers are learning the finer points of being cops — American style.

As a result of perestroika, they are studying with American police units at the University of Kansas Law Enforcement Training Centre near Hutchinson.

They say the explosive growth of crime in economically ravaged Russia brought them half-way round the world to learn how to combat problems at home.

Until their graduation April 30, they are studying everything from investigative techniques to how to use firearms.

"Next year, we will increase our police force by 30 per cent perhaps," said Gennady Nudzhinkin, a 33-year-old police captain in a suburb of St. Petersburg, Russia's second city.

"Since 1985, crime is increasing

in our area constantly," he said in a recent interview.

Russian experts say property crimes in that country have increased by as much as 250 per cent since 1985. All crimes are up an estimated 60 per cent, and the officers estimated property crime in one residential area of St. Petersburg with about 60,000 people was about 300 cases a month.

The other police officers from the St. Petersburg force attending the course are Captain Vladimir Zhurinov, Major Sergei Fedorov, Lieutenant-Major Svetlana Galubeva and Lieutenant-Major Elena Lavutenko. They are the first police officers from the former Soviet Union to study criminology in the U.S. midwest, although other groups have studied on the U.S. east coast.

As part of their American training they have observed how police work in a number of small and large Kansas towns, with Maj. Fedorov recently helping one officer investigate an armed

robbery in the city of Topeka.

"They work hard, even studying Kansas statutes they'll never again need to know," said Larry Welch, director of the training centre.

"They've got the same concerns as any Kansas police officer — a lack of manpower and equipment and a need for new laws to effectively fight crime," Mr. Welch said. "What we've learned here is that police work is universal."

Violent crime, once a statistical rarity in what was the Soviet Union, has become more common with a sharp increase of firearms available on the black market.

"It's very fair to say there is a major crime wave under way in Russia," said Gabriel Schoenfeld, a senior fellow in Russian studies with the Centre for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

"The law enforcement system has broken down," Mr. Schoenfeld said. "The problems go much

deeper than better training, but the Kansas exchange might help."

However, the Russian police officers do not characterise the situation in their homeland as bleakly. Guns are still rare among the public, there is not the drug problem that the U.S. has, and a police officer still decides before he or she goes on assignment whether or not to take firearms along, they said.

Capt. Zhurinov said the primary difference between Russian training and the training he has been getting in the U.S. is money. Although class size and basic police studies are the same, there is also a greater emphasis in the U.S. on how to use police cars, which are not as plentiful back home, he said.

"I want to learn everything I can," Maj. Fedorov said. "Maybe it's too early to know what all the benefits of this visit will be, but people in my country are very tired of high prices, instability and crime."

Mother of murder victim asks why neo-Nazi violence doesn't stop

By Terrence Petty
The Associated Press

VETSCHAU, Germany — One of Gerda Zerna's most cherished keepsakes is a 1983 snapshot showing her son Mike, holding his baby brother Oliver.

The two boys were always buddies, until Mike's recent murder by a neo-Nazi mob.

Mike was only 22. Extremists bludgeoned him outside an East German bar and then toppled a one-and-a-half-tonne van onto his broken body — just because he had long hair.

Cerda Zerna contends most Germans and the authorities don't want to admit the magnitude of the far-right threat.

"Reality is being ignored. The leaders of these (neo-Nazi) groups are loose on the streets, telling younger kids that violence is a good thing," said Mrs. Zerna.

In February, Interior Minister Rudolf Seiters claimed that "state measures... are working" against neo-Nazi violence, and many be-

lieved him. Federal authorities point out that attacks against foreigners and other far-right crimes have declined from a peak of 536 last September to a monthly average of about 150 so far this year.

The Interior Ministry attributed the drop to bans on four neo-Nazi organisations, other new anti-extremist measures, and grassroots protests.

But, while far-right crimes have indeed dropped since last fall, the count for the first four months of 1993 has actually outpaced the number for the same period last year: about 600, compared to 472.

That works out to five such crimes a day for the start of this year, about one-fifth of them arson attacks on asylum shelters, which house underprivileged immigrants.

There were 17 killings last year and 2,200 injuries. A Turk and two Germans have died so far this year, and 300 people are known to have been injured.

Neo-Nazi crimes appear to be a seasonal phenomenon in Germany, with the greatest surge occurring in summer and autumn. That was the case in 1991 and again last year.

Even if that doesn't happen this year, the final hate-crime tally for 1993 could surpass last year's record 2,285 at the current pace.

Known membership in extreme-right groups is up, according to the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution, which monitors extremists: from about 39,800 in 1991 to 42,700 at the end of last year.

Neo-Nazi organisations have easily circumvented the federal ban by changing their names.

But the government insists it has not been trying to play down the far-right threat. Interior Ministry spokesman Detlev Bouke said the new law enforcement measures have made neo-Nazis more hesitant to attack.

"But that doesn't mean it's time to give the all-clear," he

said. "No one needs to tell that to families of neo-Nazi victims."

Mustafa Demiral, a 56-year-old Turk who came to Germany in the 1960s as a "guest worker," died in a mock execution in the West German city of Muelheim of March 9. Two radicals beat him. One of them put an air pistol to his head and pulled the trigger three times. The gun didn't fire. But Demiral died of a heart attack.

Karl Starb, a 45-year-old German, died on Jan. 15. A ground-skeeper at a park in the East German city of Arnstadt, he was beaten unconscious by a gang of teenage skinheads. They threw him out onto a busy street and he was run over by two cars.

Mike Zerna lived with his parents and three brothers in Vetschau, a working-class community

According to witnesses, about 20 skinheads kicked Mike with their heavy paratrooper boots and overturned a van onto him.



Learning the finer points

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Boom in China will change Asia, says think tank

China might not be recognisable as a centre-driven, single state by early in the next century," it said.

Japan, by contrast, was the scene of political stagnation, the IISS said. Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa "has proved a disappointment in navigating through some very choppy waters," the survey said.

"He has appeared half-hearted over political reform, disengaged from the economy's problems and hesitant in dealing with a major corruption scandal. The Japanese [also] still seem confounded by the rapid pace of change in international affairs and unable to establish new approaches to foreign and defence policy," it added.

But the IISS predicted that Japanese voters' distaste for widespread change could con-

ECONOMIC NEWS IN BRIEF

end to the stalemate between the two countries had evaporated last year, and "without a basic change in the troglodyte North Korean regime ...the Korean Peninsula looks set for a further period of insecurity."

The IISS described as ominous the March decision by North Korea to withdraw from the nuclear and added, without elaboration, that "there may be no remedy short of force in one form or another."

to join top ations

ter said China hopes to increase its 1995 and enter the ranks of the an official newspaper has said. The ter of foreign trade and economic speed passage of its first foreign ily exports in an effort to meet the l pursue border trade with newly Soviet republics and South East than doubled last year. China was ter in 1992 with a trade volume of Singapore, and South Korea but to a recent Xinhua news agency

Iran to export gas to Georgia

In contrast, exports to the United States plunged 14.1 per cent to 1.74 million units while those to Europe fell 7.2 per cent to 1.61 million units.

Exports of cars alone decreased 2.3 per cent to 4.41 million units, the first drop in three years, while truck exports slumped 7.4 per cent to 1.16 million units, the seventh consecutive decline. But bus exports jumped 41.1 per cent to 31,747 units, the association said.

By value, exports soared 9.3 per cent to a record \$82.1 billion as prices were inflated by a stronger yen.

In March alone, however, there were strong signs of a recovery. Exports grew 6.1 per cent to 562,791 units over February. Car exports advanced 7.1 per cent to 443,873 units.

NICOSIA (R) — Iran has agreed to export five million cubic metres of natural gas per day to the former Soviet republic of Georgia, Iran's IRNA news agency has said. It said the deal was part of an agreement reached by Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmoud Vaezi in Tbilisi under which Iran would also help Georgia in oil exploration and petrochemical projects. The report, monitored in Nicosia, did not say how the gas would be shipped or how Georgia, which is torn by civil war and suffers from an acute energy shortage, would pay for it.

UAE duty free shops boost trade, revenues

ABU DHABI (R) — Duty free shops at the United Arab Emirates' (UAE) main airports recorded their highest revenues last year by luring passengers with raffish offering cash, gold and luxury cars, managers said. Dubai International Airport, the UAE's largest airport with 5.4 million passengers, boosted revenues at its duty free shop by 35 per cent to \$135 million in 1992, public relations manager Anita Mehra said. Annual revenues have risen six-fold since the shop, where travellers can buy tax-free luxury goods, opened in 1985. "A lot of our passengers were attracted by the car raffie," Ms. Mehra said. "We've raffied 187 cars since it was set up." Abu Dhabi airport's duty free revenues rose to 161 million dirhams (\$43.8 million) in 1992 from 143 million dirhams (\$36.9 million) in 1991. Passenger traffic rose to 2.4 million. Annual revenues stood at \$6.5 million in 1984, its first year of operations. Marketing manager Niveen Ibrahim said this year they were spending three million dirhams (\$817,000) to expand the shop.

Taiwan said to slow infrastructure spending

TAIPEI (R) — The Taiwan government, facing a financial squeeze, will cut spending on its huge infrastructure program in the next year and delay the completion of some projects, a newspaper has said. A cabinet committee has decided to slash spending under the island's six-year development plan to 591 billion Taiwanese dollars (\$22.8 billion) in the fiscal year to June 1994 from 758 billion Taiwanese dollars (\$29.3 billion) originally planned, the mass-circulation China Times said. Government spending on the plan is expected to total 620 billion Taiwanese dollars (\$23.9 billion) in the current fiscal year, the newspaper quoted unnamed officials as saying. It said the government now planned to delay completion of the six-year plan, which originally envisaged spending by the public and private sectors of about \$300 billion between 1991 and 1997, to the year 2000. The plan includes construction of roads, ports, power plants and other facilities to upgrade Taiwan's infrastructure and propel it into the ranks of developed economies. But the government, warning that state finances were under severe pressure after several years of record budget deficits, announced in March that it would consider slowing the six-year plan. A formal policy announcement is expected around July.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY MAY 23, 1993
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Wright Astrologer

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Combining your best judgement with your most intuitive and prophetic insight today so that you will be better able to gain the right philosophy of life proving to others that you are a remarkable individual.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) During the day you can consider where you want to make some changes without yet putting them in effect. tonight brings a need to consider your public image.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Avoid dealing directly with any material or mundane problems that face you today and sidestep the urge to go to new places to attain ideas tonight.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You want to reach a new accord with an ally but aspects indicate it's not the right time so instead carry through with what you've agreed to do.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You don't like to be of service to others but don't expect thanks today if you do while tonight sidestep a partner who is eager to cut you down to size.

LEO: (July 22 August 21) You can have a pleasant time during the day if you stick to simple and inexpensive pleasures while tonight work is a bore so enjoy music, TV, radio.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Matters at home require careful consideration and cautious.

SOLUTIONS so be in such an attitude, while tonight bring a need to use self-control at entertainment.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Using this daytime to extend your knowledge can be disappointing but do your best anyway and later you are in a better position to handle some perplexities.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Try to steer clear from some arguments over finances in the daytime while in the evening is not advisable to bring up moon points with a close companion.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You feel frustrated in doing and getting the things you want so postpone them until a better time and in the evening be equally careful in spending money.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Busy yourself getting rid of anything private that stands in the way of your progress in the morning. tonight consider how best to attain cherished longings.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You and persons you would like to see are busy with their own concerns so handle yours in the evening do something to cheerup your attachment.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You would be wise to attend to personal and not worldly interests in the morning and to do sagely with friends who have over the want you to grind.

THE Daily Crossword by Harry Anderson

ACROSS

- 1 Out-of-date
- 8 FDR's pet
- 10 Ethnic group
- 14 Trobriand
- 15 Algerian city
- 18 Norwegian saint
- 17 Renders senseless
- 18 Weaken by subversion
- 20 Small amounts
- 21 Black cuckoo
- 22 Yeast, for one
- 23 Make up one's mind
- 25 Hemingway or Borgnine
- 26 Take for granted
- 28 Pouch
- 29 Burmese gibbon
- 30 TV pioneer, Milton
- 31 Jolly parts
- 37 Butte
- 39 Meets out
- 41 Fauset problem
- 42 More extensive
- 44 Performers
- 45 Vane letters
- 47 Rim
- 48 Allude class
- 51 Grate noisily
- 54 Swiss house
- 55 Taffy lily
- 56 Turncoat
- 57 Theatrical once
- 60 Memory ability
- 62 Make up for
- 63 Roman way
- 64 Cup of —
- 65 Flirtatious
- 66 Hardy heroine
- 67 Decomposes
- 68 Ford's son

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- 8 Young man
- 9 Anoints, old style
- 10 Courtied
- 11 In evinces
- 12 Wailing aids
- 13 Walk or blessed and
- 19 Played a reel anew
- 21 Pointed
- 24 New lion
- 26 Farm impliment
- 27 Indian princes
- 31 —tse (JChn, gHosowen)
- 32 Circus performers
- 34 Fashion designs
- 35 Face card
- 36 Get —
- 38 Storytellers
- 40 Pay the tab
- 43 Mature
- 45 The sun
- 48 Ancey
- 50 Set on eggs

Puzzle Solved:

DOWN

- 1 Gone by
- 2 Judicial proceedings
- 3 Trambled convulsively
- 4 Sight and smell
- 5 McMahon and
- 6 Bank
- 7 Golf's Palmer

- 51 Diagonal spar
- 52 Mediterranean Island
- 53 Charges
- 54 European

- 55 Chip in
- 56 Repas
- 61 Japanese
- 62 Mith
- 63 Thrower
- 64 Madame
- 65 Adri
- 66 Fleur
- 67 Coin

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

WROCE

□ ○ □ □ □ □

PUJEL

□ □ □ □ □ ○

BLITAR

□ □ □ □ □ □

MAINEA

□ □ □ □ □ □

WHAT YOU MIGHT
CALL THIS BARBER'S
ESTABLISHMENT.

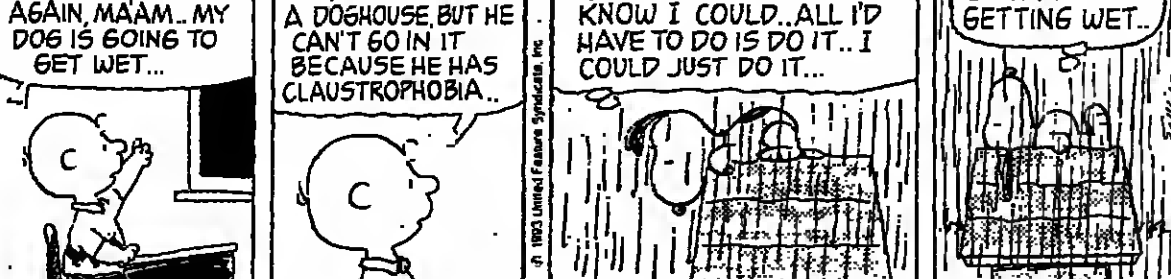
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: A □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: IMBUE CHOKE TANGLE DOUBLY
 Answer: Something besides the side which the moon affects—THE UNITED

Peanuts



I SEE IT'S RAINING AGAIN, MA'AM... MY DOG IS GOING TO GET WET...


YES, MA'AM... HE HAS A DOGHOUSE, BUT HE CAN'T GO IN IT BECAUSE HE HAS CLAUSTROPHOBIA...

I COULD GO IN THERE... I KNOW I COULD... ALL I'D HAVE TO DO IS DO IT... I COULD JUST DO IT...

I THINK I'M GETTING WET...

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Andy Capp




IT'S GOING TO BE QUITE A MATCH, ALAN... WEEBIE YOU SHOULD COME ALONG--

THE VISITORS HAVE SOME OLD SOOKS TO SETTLE WITH US

—HE'S GREAT AT RIOT CONTROL—HE'S GOT SIX KIDS

© 1983, UNITED FEATURES SYNDICATE, INC.

Mutt'n'Jeff



I CAN'T FIND A PLACE TO LIVE ANYWHERE!

I HAVE A PLACE FOR YOU TO LIVE! I'LL SELL IT TO YOU FOR FIFTY BUCKS!

I'LL TAKE IT, MUTT! NO MATTER HOW BAD! GOSH, YOU'RE A REAL PAL!

JUST SIGN THE PAPERS AND SLIP ME FIFTY BUCKS!

THIS IS IT, JEFF! IT'S ALL YOURS!

BUT THERE'S NO HOUSE ON IT! NOTHIN' BUT THIS OLD BOARD!

WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR FIFTY BUCKS? YOU GOT A ROOF UNDER YOUR FEET AIN'T CHA?

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3 killed in Sarajevo shelling

SARAJEVO (R) — At least three people were killed and 45 wounded in renewed shelling of Sarajevo Saturday as Washington and its partners tried to patch up their rift over how to end the war in Bosnia.

A deputy prime minister in the Muslim-led government, Zlatko Lagumdžija, was among those injured in what U.N. officials said was the worst barrage of the Serb-besieged Bosnian capital since the warring sides signed a truce on May 8.

Doctors at the French hospital where Lagumdžija was taken said he was in satisfactory condition after stomach surgery.

The casualty figures were reported by two main hospitals in Sarajevo. The latest fighting followed shelling Friday in which four people were killed and more than 30, many of them children, were injured.

The city's television station and a first aid post were hit but there were no reports of casualties in either incident. Muslim-controlled Sarajevo Radio said several civilians had also been killed or wounded in the past 24 hours in a Serb artillery assault on

the northeastern town of Maglaj.

A spokesman for the U.S. Protection Force could not confirm reports of clashes around Maglaj, where the Bosnian Serb army has accused Muslim forces of launching attacks.

But he confirmed there had been fighting Friday around Brčko, another northern town which controls a key Serb supply route.

Battles have raged on in Bosnia, albeit at a lower intensity, as the United States, Russia and Europe try to forge a common strategy to end the 14-month conflict following Bosnian Serb rejection of the current U.N.-backed peace plan.

U.S. President Bill Clinton has backed away from his plan to arm the Muslims and bomb the Serbs after resistance from Russia and Europe.

He said Friday he was sceptical that what was now being proposed could end the conflict, but officials said the United States might be ready to live, at least temporarily, with war gains by the Serbs, now in control of 70 per cent of Bosnia.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher planned more talks with America's allies Saturday amid reports that progress was being made.

Diplomatic sources said Mr. Christopher's discussions with the foreign ministers of France, Bri-

tain, Russia and Spain were likely to be held jointly. The group could announce afterwards a common set of principles on solving the Bosnian crisis.

"Without being overly optimistic on such a complex issue, I think that the proposals which have been made by the various parties can constitute a joint plan and lead, I hope, to an agreement," French Foreign Minister Alain Juppé said Friday.

Ideas under discussion include expansion of Muslim "safe areas," tightened sanctions, creation of a war crimes tribunal and deployment of monitors on Bosnia's border with Yugoslavia to ensure no arms flow to Bosnian Serbs.

But an expected U.N. resolution on the monitors appeared to have been scuppered in advance by Dobrica Cosic, president of the rump Yugoslav Federation of Serbia and Montenegro.

"They (U.N. monitors) do not solve the problem and they endanger our sovereignty and offend the dignity of our state," Mr. Cosic told Britain's Sky News Television in an interview.

Belgrade, previously blamed for fuelling the war, threw its weight behind the U.N.-backed peace plan earlier this month hoping the world would respond by lifting crippling economic sanctions against Serbia-dominated Yugoslavia.

When Bosnia's Serbs rejected the plan, Belgrade declared its

border with Bosnia closed except for food and medicines.

Mr. Cosic said the sanctions had put Yugoslavia in "a ghetto, a quarantine, a concentration camp" and made Serbia and Montenegro hostages to the civil war.

Good progress is being made on a "realistic and agreed way" to stop the fighting in Bosnia, British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said Friday.

"We are not there yet. There is some work still to be done. But compared to a week or so ago, those of us involved in these consultations are clearly moving together," he said after meeting with Secretary-General Boutros Ghali.

"I think it's making good progress," he told reporters at the United Nations.

"The aim is to have a realistic and agreed way of containing the fighting, reducing the fighting, stopping the fighting, and then moving forward to a just and equitable peace."

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppé, who saw Dr. Ghali earlier in the day, also said he hoped the United States and Europeans could reach a common policy on Bosnia.

"Without being overly optimistic on such a complex issue, I think that the proposals which have been made by the various parties can constitute a joint plan and lead, I hope, to an agreement," Mr. Juppé told reporters.

Ukraine nuclear incident 'will bolster opposition'

KIEV (R) — A fire and explosion that killed a worker at a Ukrainian nuclear power station — Europe's largest — was no different from any industrial accident, officials said Saturday.

But they acknowledged the incident at the Zaporizha station would boost opposition to government plans to expand the nuclear industry's capacity seven years after the Chernobyl disaster.

Ecologists in Ukraine renewed calls for the closure of the country's network of five nuclear power stations.

"There was no radiation leak and no substantial damage," Nur Ignatulin, first deputy director of Ukraine's Nuclear Power Directorate, said by telephone.

"From the standpoint of emotion, this will make it more difficult to persuade parliament to expand nuclear capacity. But in real terms, this sort of incident could have occurred at any thermal station."

Officials at the Zaporizha Station, 600 kilometres southeast of Kiev, said the explosion and fire were caused by sparks from a welder's torch igniting with leaking hydrogen from a cooling pipe.

A second workman remained in hospital with serious burns, but officials said he was probably out of danger.

The station's chief engineer, Taras Plokhiv, said by telephone that the fire was extinguished within 10 minutes outside the plant's fifth reactor, which was undergoing scheduled maintenance.

Officials contacted immediately after the accident said firefighters took two hours to bring the blaze under control.

Local radio and television broadcast news of the incident soon after it occurred. Officials reported a "minor panic" as residents of Zaporizha, a city of 900,000 some 50 kilometres away, jammed switchboards in search of more information.

But the Ukrinform News Agency and national radio gave a brief account only Saturday morning — probably more a reflection of the sluggish nature of the Ukrainian media than a deliberate attempt to withhold information.

The Zaporizha plant is the most modern of Ukraine's nuclear plants and provides 14 per cent of the country's electricity.

4 blacks, 2 whites killed in S. African township

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Six people were killed near Johannesburg Saturday when hostel dwellers opened fire on pro-ANC marchers and angry blacks attacked white security guards, killing two.

Reuters Television cameraman Leon Mulherbe said police told him the whites were killed after being attacked by a 200-strong mob from phola Park squatter camp following the shootings of four blacks, one by police, in nearby Thokoza township.

A third white security guard was injured in the attack. Witnesses said the Thokoza violence erupted after pro-ANC marchers, many armed with spears and clubs, began trading insults with mainly Zulu-speaking workers at a hostel on the route through Thokoza.

Reuter photographer Judo Ngenya said police shot dead an

ANC member armed with an AK-47 assault rifle after the hostel violence.

"The man was trying to shoot at police," said Mr. Ngenya, adding that police fired teargas and birdshot to try to disperse groups of angry youths gathering in Thokoza and the march, to air labour grievances, was breaking up.

He said police monitors and police who were escorting the march lost control when marchers tried to force back a small group of Zulu-speaking protesters through the hostel gates.

ANC spokesman Carl Niehaus urged police to try to arrest those responsible for the killings.

"We call on everyone involved to try to prevent further bloodshed and urge the police to take immediate action to prevent further shooting from the hostel," Mr. Niehaus told Reuter.

Chechnya moves to mend relations with Moscow

MOSCOW (R) — Russia's rebel Chechnya region, which declared independence 18 months ago, took a step towards normalising its severed relations with Moscow by restoring banking links, ITAR-TASS News Agency reported Saturday.

But it was not clear whether a new "Popular Trust" cabinet, formed this month by opponents of President Dzhokhar Dudayev amidst growing unrest in the oil-producing territory, could implement the move. Mr. Dudayev has kept his own cabinet and army.

When Mr. Dudayev, a former Soviet Air Force general, took power in September 1991, he announced that the department of Russia's Central Bank which had paid pensions and salaries to Chechnya was henceforth to become the Chechen National Bank.

In retaliation, Russia stopped allocating cash to it. Although most Chechens support the idea of independence, popular opposition to Mr. Dudayev's rule has escalated sharply since local payments of wages and pensions

virtually stopped.

The Popular Trust cabinet has now decided to restart the Russian Central Bank's branch in Chechnya, enabling Moscow to transfer cash again to the capital. TASS said a local commercial bank would now do the job of accepting transfers.

In a separate development, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said Friday that some former Soviet republics have expressed interest in becoming part of Russia, the Interfax News Agency reported.

The agency also quoted Vice Premier Alexander Shokhin as saying that one of those states was Tajikistan, which he said made inquiries about six months ago in the midst of its bloody civil war. The Central Asian nation is among the poorest former republics.

"Some republics of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) are beginning today to request the government of the Russian Federation to include them in its composition," Mr. Chernomyrdin said.

Angolan peace talks collapse; war continues

ABIDJAN (R) — Marathon Angolan peace talks have collapsed after the government and UNITA rebels failed to agree on a draft peace package, raising fears that the civil war may intensify.

A final session of the six-week talks in Ivory Coast broke up without success Friday night and participants said negotiations were suspended indefinitely.

"I'm afraid the war is going to go on and probably to intensify," Margaret Anstee, the United Nations special envoy to Angola, told reporters in the Ivorian capital Abidjan.

"That means we have to intensify our efforts to try to get the two sides together again."

There was no indication if or when talks between UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) and the MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola) government would restart.

Ms. Anstee said the main stumbling-point was a key military clause in the draft peace agreement saying UNITA fighters would withdraw from areas they have occupied since fighting started again last year.

The MPLA said it was ready to sign the Abidjan peace package, drawn up by observers from Portugal, Russia and the United States, as it stood. UNITA refused.

The United Nations helped bring about a peace agreement in 1991 to end 16 years of civil war in the former Portuguese colony but UNITA took up arms again

after rejecting its defeat in U.N.-supervised elections last September.

Senior MPLA delegate General Higinio Carneiro said it was difficult to say if there would be a resumption of fighting. He said the government would continue to fight to defend its institutions and the Angolan people.

"The solution to Angola will not be war but the government is not going to fold its arms," he said.

UNITA's chief negotiator Jorge Valentim repeated the rebel movement's position that the U.N. should send peacekeeping troops to the southern African country.

"The situation is a complex one," he said. "For a ceasefire you need the United Nations, you need blue helmets."

Ms. Anstee was due to leave the Ivorian capital Abidjan for New York later Friday night, and government negotiators were planning to return to Luanda at the weekend. It was not clear when UNITA delegates would leave.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali said early this week the Abidjan talks should end Friday. Diplomats said last week he was likely to advise the Security Council not to renew the U.N.'s observer role in Angola beyond the end of this month unless the talks made significant progress. President Bill Clinton Wednesday announced U.S. recognition of the formerly-marxist MPLA, effectively ending 18 years of support for UNITA.

Cuban epidemic appears to be falling off — doctors

HAVANA (R) — A mystery epidemic of a nervous disease that has swept across Cuba, affecting up to 26,000 people, appears to be decreasing slightly in its intensity, Cuban doctors said.

"The epidemic is showing a tendency to decrease as a whole...only a little, but decreasing," Dr. Raul Gomez Cabrera, director of the Hermanos Ameijeiras Hospital in Havana, told a news conference.

Dr. Gomez and other Cuban specialists at the conference said up to 26,000 people on the Communist-ruled Caribbean island were suffering from the disease, described as an "epidemic neuropathy."

The epidemic, which has hit Cuba while it is in the grips of a severe economic recession, attacks the body's nervous system, either disrupting the eyesight or affecting the sense of feeling or touch in limbs.

Dr. Gomez said Cuban experts were working with foreign specialists brought in by the World Health Organisation to try to track down the exact cause of the disease, which was still unknown.

"It's like a jigsaw puzzle. If you don't have all the pieces, you can't give an explanation or an overall theory," he said.

The Cuban and foreign specialists have been following three main lines of investigation. Firstly, that the disease is nutrition-related, secondly that it is caused by a toxin and thirdly that it may be the result of a virus.

"There's nothing definitive yet. There are many question marks," Dr. Gomez said.

A top U.S. virus expert and U.S. Nobel laureate in medicine, Dr. Carleton Gajdusek, who

spent two days in Cuba studying the epidemic, said Wednesday it was nothing like anything he had ever heard of or seen before.

Other foreign experts also expressed surprise at the number of cases, saying this was unprecedented in the medical history for this kind of disease.

"It's certainly a staggering scale," Dr. Alfredo Sadun, an eye neurologist working for the private U.S. eye care organisation Orbis, told reporters Thursday.

As a preventive measure, Cuba's health authorities have been distributing a Vitamin B supplement containing Vitamin B Complex to the island's entire population of nearly 11 million people. The nation was spending 17 million to import the extra Vitamins, officials said.

Dr. Gomez said the majority of those affected were responding well to intensive treatment with Vitamins and other therapies.

Within the overall tendency towards a decrease, cases featuring disruption to eyesight had fallen off, while there was an increase in the so-called peripheral form of the disease, which affects the limbs.

Foreign specialists have so far concurred with assertions by Cuban doctors that the epidemic cannot be exclusively blamed on nutrition levels in Cuba, which have fallen because of widespread shortages of Vitamin-rich foods like meat, eggs and wheat-flour products.

The Cuban experts said nutritional deficiencies could have a role in the development of the disease, but scientists were still actively looking at the possibility that a toxin or virus was behind it.



Michelle McLean, Miss Universe 1992 of Namibia (right) Friday puts the crown on Dayana Torres of Puerto Rico (left), the new Miss Universe 1993 (AFP photo)

Miss Puerto Rico is crowned Miss Universe

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Dayana Torres, a student and part-time model from Puerto Rico, was chosen Friday night as Miss Universe 1993 out of a field of 79 beauty queens from around the world.

Dressed in a strapless white evening gown, Miss Torres, 18, was swarmed by fellow contestants as she was crowned by Miss Universe 1992, Michelle McLean of Namibia.

As the new Miss Universe, Miss Torres wins \$200,000 worth of prizes. She will spend a year making official appearances around the world.

Paula Betancourt, 21, of Medellin, Colombia, wore a slim, black strapless gown trimmed with sparkling silver rhinestones, as she was chosen the first runner-up. Miki Chulina, 19, of Maracay, Venezuela, in an orange gown with a hoop skirt and gold brocade, was made second runner-up in the glittering ceremony broadcast to 175 nations.

Miss Torres was chosen from the top three finalists after a final round of questioning by the judges. All were asked: "If you are chosen as Miss Universe, what do you want to accomplish?"

Miss Torres said she would focus on young people. "I believe that we should turn our energies to the children of the world, because that is where our future lies."

Miss Colombia said she would work to join the nations of the world together in an ecological campaign to make the earth safe for future generations. Miss Venezuela said she would strive to turn people's negative attitudes into positive ones.

The three were chosen from a field of 10 semifinalists.

Kanya Moore of the United States, Australia's Von Doffo, Leticia Schuster of Brazil, Pavlina Barbkova of the Czech Republic, Tarja Smura of Finland, Namrata Shirodkar of India and Eugenia Santana of Spain were

the semifinalists eliminated.

The mayor of Santurce and others from Miss Torres' hometown cheered the brown haired, blue eyed model, who is 5 feet 8½ inches (174 cms) tall.

Tickets, selling for as much as \$220, sold out for Friday's pageant at the 10,000-seat National Auditorium.

The 10 semifinalists were chosen Monday after the swimsuit and evening gown events. But the names kept secret until Friday's two-hour ceremony that was seen by more than 600 million viewers worldwide.

The competition for a crown, scholarship and prizes this year drew contestants as varied as an aspiring anchorwoman, psychologists and architects.

During four weeks of appearances, the contestants visited beach resorts in Oaxaca, Campeche and the colonial city of Zacatecas.

In the semifinals Monday night, Miss Venezuela received a \$1,000 check for being the contestant with "the world's most beautiful hair." Miss Ghana was chosen as Miss Congeniality and Miss Spain as Miss Photogenic.

Cecilia Bolocco of Chile, a popular announcer on Spanish-language television in the United States, and American TV announcer Dick Clark were hosts for the final event. Miss Bolocco was Miss Universe 1987.

Miss Universe 1989, Angela Visser of the Netherlands, was special commentator for the third year in a row.

Judges included Venezuelan singer and actress Maria Conchita Alonso, who earlier represented her country in the contest, and Miss Universe 1991 Lupita Jones of Mexico, whose new book "Word Of The Queen, mince no words in its behind-the-scenes look at beauty contests."

This was the third time the Miss Universe contest has been held in Mexico. It was held in Acapulco in 1978 and in Cancun in 1989.

Venezuela leader suspended; acting president takes over

CARACAS (R) — Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez was suspended from his post and ordered to stand trial on corruption charges, the first time a president has been impeached in nearly four decades of democratic rule.

Senators voted unanimously to ratify a Supreme Court ruling Thursday that there was enough evidence to try the unpopular Perez, survivor of coup attempts and political bids to oust him, on charges of embezzlement and misuse of public funds.

"This is a significant blow against corruption," Congress Vice President Felipe Montilla told senators.

Octavio Lepage, the president of Congress who has devoted half a century to politics with the ruling Democratic Action Party, was sworn in as acting president of this oil-exporting nation while lawmakers applauded.

"I am sure (the people) will accept me," Mr. Lepage said. "My name is a clean name. Nobody can point out any stain."

Mr. Lepage, a Perez leadership rival before 1988 elections, said he would honour all of Venezuela's foreign commitments and had not yet considered whether to change the cabinet.

The presidential sash, bearing the blue, red and yellow colours of the nation's flag, was placed around Mr. Lepage as a military band broke into the national anthem. The sash had to be altered to fit Mr. Lepage's diminutive frame.

"The president of the republic is suspended of his duties," said the motion that senators voted to approve.

Outside the presidential palace, about 500 demonstrators shouting the name of Lieutenant Colonel Hugo Chavez, leader of the February 1992 coup attempt, clashed with police and left when they were fired upon with tear-gas and plastic pellets.

Another 400 protesters gathered outside of Congress shouting "corrupt, corrupt" as legislators sought to leave the building.

The vice-president of the ruling party, Paulina Gamus, was roughed up by the crowd, and she broke away in tears.

Police dispersed the crowd with tear-gas.

Mr. Lepage, 69, who was elected president of Congress in February for the second time, is a ruling party senator from his home state of Anzoategui on Venezuela's eastern Caribbean coast.

Cambodia elections to go ahead despite violence

PHNOM PENH (R) — Cambodian elections will go ahead Sunday despite continuing violence that killed at least four people overnight, the head of the U.N. peacekeepers said Saturday.

"We will hold elections in all provinces of Cambodia," Yasushi Akashi, the Japanese diplomat who has led the 22,000-strong U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) since it was deployed in March, 1992, told a news conference.

Two Chinese U.N. peacekeeping soldiers were killed and four wounded during an overnight battle between Khmer Rouge guerrillas and Phnom Penh government forces in southeastern Cambodia, U.N. sources said Saturday.

A U.N. military observer contacted in the town of Kompong Cham said the peacekeepers were killed at their base in Skoun, 80 kilometres north of the capital as the rival factions clashed at midnight.

Xinhua, the state news agency of China, a country which faithfully backed the Khmer Rouge for 15 years, said the men were killed by artillery shells. Several engineers were wounded, it added.

Peking condemned the artillery attack that killed the two Chinese.

"Two Chinese engineers were killed and four others were wounded," a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman confirmed in a statement released by Xinhua. "We strongly condemn this serious act of violence," the spokesman said.

"The Chinese side has asked the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) to investigate the case and take effective measures to ensure the personal safety of the Chinese engineers on peacekeeping missions," the spokesman added.

"We solemnly demand that all forces concerned in Cambodia immediately stop attacking U.N. peacekeeping personnel, including the Chinese engineers."

A government policeman was shot dead late Friday night and two were injured when their post was attacked in Kratie province, northwest of Phnom Penh, UNTAC reported. It said a head-quarters of the Royalist Party was hit by a hand grenade killing one and injuring another in the same province.

Mr. Akashi admitted that UNTAC had been unable to create a neutral political environment in Cambodia for the elections, as called for in the all-faction Paris peace agreement of October, 1991, which set out the terms for the election and proposed the peacekeeping force.

"I am confident we have the minimal acceptable conditions for free and fair elections, not the maximum, far from it," he said.

Mr. Akashi said parts of each province would be participating in the elections, but people in three or four districts would be unable to vote because of violence.

People living in zones under the control of the Khmer Rouge will not be able to vote. The radical guerrilla group killed a million people through execution, starvation, disease and forced labour when it ran the country from 1975 to 1979.

Votes will be cast in about 80 per cent of Cambodian territory, Mr. Akashi said. He hoped 80 per cent of the 4.76 million registered voters would be able to cast ballots.

Mr. Akashi said the greatest obstacle faced by UNTAC was the Khmer Rouge's military threat. The group withdrew from the election calling it a tool to legitimise the rule of Premier Hun Sen's Phnom Penh government, installed by the Vietnamese after they ousted the Khmer Rouge in an invasion.

He said newly-equipped Khmer Rouge fighters were now roving the countryside in bands of between 200 and 400. A year ago such groups comprised only a dozen or so guerrillas.

But the Khmer Rouge have not presented the only problem.

"Acts of political violence, intimidation and harassment have been more numerous than we would like," Mr. Akashi said. "Many of such acts have been related to SOC and CPP, but not exclusively so."

The State of Cambodia (SOC) is the formal name of the Phnom Penh government and its ruling political organisation is the Cambodia People's Party (CPP).

Meanwhile Cambodian head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk returned to his country on the eve of Sunday's national elections and said he supported the polls even though he viewed them as flawed.

Wrong number

DARMSTADT, Germany (AFP) — A 79-year-old Darmstadt pensioner used to getting the occasional phone call just from friends or relatives was astonished to be bombarded day and night by female callers inquiring about sex, police reported. His number was mistakenly printed in an advert in a sex magazine offering a hotline for lesbian lovers.

French school hostage drama to be made into a film

PARIS (R) — A film called Human Bomb is to be made of the French school hostage drama last week in which a gunman held toddlers and their teacher captive until he was shot dead by police. French newspapers reported Script author Gilles Cahoreau told the newspaper France-Sou he wrote the scenario of Human Bomb during the 46-hour siege of the Commandant Charcot Nursery School in the Paris suburb of Neuilly. "I wanted to work on a police film when I heard about this incident. So I wrote the script as it was happening," he said.

Human Bomb is what the hooded gunman, Eric Schmitt, 42, called himself. He was armed with 21 sticks of dynamite and held his captives at gunpoint in their classroom. He initially took 21 children and their teacher hostage. He released 15 of the toddlers in exchange for money but still had six children in the classroom with him when he was killed by police last Saturday. An announcement in the trade magazine Le Film Français said the production company Les Films En Hiver could shoot Human Bomb in August. It said Franck Landron would direct the film, starring actress Elsa Zylberstein as schoolmistress Laurence Dreyfus, widely acclaimed as a hero of the siege. Schmitt will be played by Bernard Ballez.

"We strongly condemn this serious act of violence," the spokesman said.

"The Chinese side has asked the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) to investigate the case and take effective measures to ensure the personal safety of the Chinese engineers on peacekeeping missions," the spokesman added.

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Votes will be cast in about 80 per cent of Cambodian territory, Mr.

Rockets, Supersonics battle in deciding semifinal

SEATTLE (AP) — It's a tale of two cities.

When the Seattle Supersonics and the Houston Rockets finally settle their Western Conference semifinal series, the deciding factor may be the homecourt advantage. Neither team has been able to win on the road.

The Rockets sent the series back to the Seattle Coliseum for the winner-take-all game with a 103-90 victory Thursday night.

"I'll tell you, it's going to be different," Seattle's Shawn Kemp promised. "Much different."

"It's a crazy series," said Oris Thorpe of Houston.

The Rockets captured games 3, 4 and 6 in Houston by 18, 11 and 13 points. Seattle won games 1, 2 and 5 at home by 9, 11 and 25 points.

Except for geography, there isn't much separating the clubs, each of whom won 55 regular-season games. The Rockets earned the homecourt advantage by beating Houston three out of four times during the regular season.

In this series, the Sonics are averaging 98.5 points and 41 rebounds to Houston's 98.0 points and 40.5 rebounds.

Houston, with short-blocking wizard Hakeem Olajuwon of Nigeria at centre, is averaging 55 blocks to the Sonics' 4.1, but the Sonics are turning the ball over less than the Rockets — 13.8 to 18.5.

In game 6, Houston's Kenny Smith scored 30 points on 13-of-16 shooting, and he missed his first two shots. But until then, Smith hadn't been a major factor in the series, averaging 14.5 points.

"This series has taken on a pattern," Houston coach Rudy Tomjanovich said. "We have to change it."

Riley avoids firing verbal volleys at Bulls: Pat Riley knows that Michael Jordan called the New York Knicks a flawed team that is



Bulls' Horace Grant sinks in a slam dunk

Ewing and John Starks are contained.

"Michael has a right to say that," Riley said. "He's the man on the throne. He's pre-eminent right now in the NBA. He's right that we have some weakness. We also have some strengths."

Recent history has shown that championship teams have needed a few years of failure in the conference finals before going on to win titles. Detroit's nemesis was Boston before the Pistons won twice, and Chicago had to break through against Detroit before the Bulls were successful the last two years.

"Sometimes you do have to pay your dues in this league. But we hope to get past that," Riley said. "It's a state of mind. Starting last year we thought we had the talent to win. We have the opportunity to do it now."

Point guard Doc Rivers said Jordan's comments weren't offensive to the Knicks.

"Every team is flawed," Rivers said. "If there was a team that wasn't flawed, it would go 82-0 and win the championship every year. The secret to winning is finding the other team's flaws and exploit them."

Rivers, a 10-year veteran who has never before been to a conference final, said he saw the series, which starts Sunday at Madison Square Garden, as "an awesome opportunity. I didn't think I'd ever be in this situation."

Meanwhile, Grant, who injured his right ankle in the Bulls' first game against Cleveland, practiced for the first time since the injury, although he has not missed a playoff game.

"Horace will play," Bulls coach Phil Jackson said. "He worked gingerly, but we'll work him more Saturday."

Cartwright and Paxson both are recovering from knee problems that hampered them throughout the regular season.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Wright faces X-rays ahead of World Cup qualifiers

LONDON (R) — Arsenal striker Ian Wright faces X-rays on his damaged ankle this weekend ahead of England's important World Cup matches against Poland and Norway. Wright was injured after a challenge by Sheffield Wednesday's Paul Warhurst during Arsenal's dramatic 2-1 F.A. Cup final replay win Thursday. Wright, who missed the last two England qualifiers against San Marino and the Netherlands because of injury, finished the league season playing with a broken toe. Meanwhile, both he and Sheffield Wednesday striker Mark Bright could face a Football Association probe into their behaviour during Thursday's replay. The F.A. received complaints from members of the public angry at seeing Bright elbow Arsenal's match winner Andy Linighan in the face and Wright mouth obscenities at a linesman.

Roma rescued from bankruptcy threat

ROME (R) — The threat of bankruptcy was lifted from Italian Cup finalists AS Roma Friday when two businessmen agreed to take over the debt-ridden club. The first division club said in a statement that industrialists Pietro Mezzaroma and Franco Sensi, both associated with Roma in the past, had signed a preliminary agreement to assume the majority shareholding from the Italian 80 company. Italfin 80 is the flagship of outgoing president Giuseppe Ciarrapico, currently in prison in Milan after his arrest on corruption charges last week. No figures were released for the transaction. Roma are reported to have total debts of around \$45 million.

Record number in golf competition

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Pakistani Ambassador Tariq Afridi Friday hosted an annual golf competition for members of the Bisharat Golf Club. The event, which attracted a record number of players, was keenly contested and the overall handicap winner was Mr. M.S. Park of Korea, with Mr. Adnan Tabakhali close behind and Mr. Dick Lockyer third. The best gross score of the day was achieved by the club captain, Mr. Hanafi Abu Al Hawa. Several international players based in Jordan took part in the competition.

Russia to go for broke against Greece

MOSCOW (R) — Russia will play an all-out attacking game against Greece in their World Cup qualifier Sunday, knowing victory would practically guarantee them a trip to the finals in the United States next year. Lev Zakharevich, international secretary of the Russian Soccer Federation, said the team should be unchanged from the one which swept aside Hungary 3-0 last month. Russia have a maximum eight points from four games in group five, just one behind the Greeks who have played one match more. Third-placed Hungary have just three points.

Tyson wants someone to care for his birds

KINGSTON (AP) — Former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson wants someone to care for his beloved pigeons while he serves a 6-year sentence in Indiana for rape. Tyson first became interested in the birds as a youngster in Brooklyn. His fascination continued when he moved in with the late trainer Cus D'Amato at his Catskill Mountain home. Tyson still keeps 150 homing pigeons in Catskill, and that's becoming a problem, according to Tyson's friend Jay Bright. Bright said he is searching for someone who will mind cleaning the two-story coop and feeding and watering the pigeons. Bright said Tyson needs someone who will care for the birds, and continue their training. The job pays \$200 a month, and about 25 people have already applied.

Flying filly Nicer wins Irish 1,000 Guineas

DUBLIN (R) — The flying British filly Nicer, trained by Barry Hills and ridden by his son Michael, ran out a decisive winner of the Irish 1,000 Guineas Saturday.

Prost on pole for Monaco Grand Prix

MONTE CARLO (R) — Alain Prost claimed his sixth successive pole position this season and the 26th of his career Saturday when he set the pace in final qualifying for Sunday's Monaco Grand Prix. Prost, who leads the World Drivers' Championship by two points from great rival Ayrton Senna, dominated the session in his Williams.

He was out on the circuit early in the hour-long period and quickly worked his way down to a fastest time of one minute 20.557 seconds at an average speed of 148.725 kph.

This remained unchallenged, his nearest rival being German Michael Schumacher in a Benetton.

He claimed a share of the front row with the second best time of 1:21.190 in his Ford-powered B193B, using traction control for the first time this weekend.

Senna, who had a minor accident at the chicane, was third-fastest in his McLaren and will share the second row with Briton Damon Hill in the second Williams.

Senna touched the barriers at the entry to the chicane and locked up under braking as he half-spun to a halt in an escape lane. Senna was left to sit out the rest of the session on a nearby park bench.

Hill, who had provisional pole from Thursday's wet opening session, was never able to mount a serious threat to Prost or Senna despite making a big effort in the second half of the session.

World Cup qualifying matches

Yemen score late equaliser to hold Jordan to 1-1 draw

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

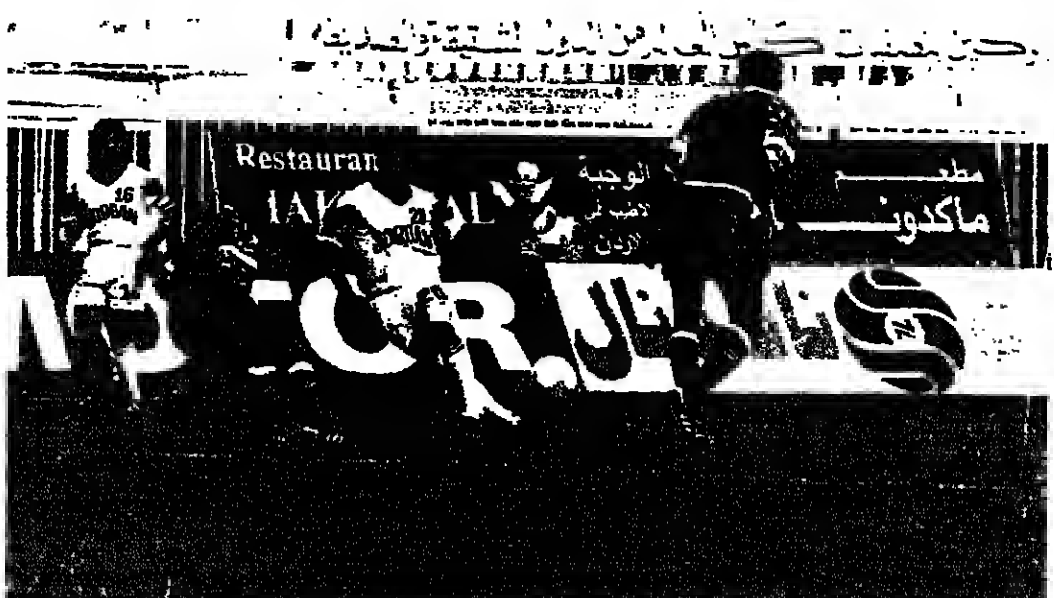
JORDAN SATURDAY drew 1-1 with Yemen in the opening match of the Asian group A World Cup qualifying matches held at Al Hassan Sports City Stadium in Irbid.

The match was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Bin Al Hussein, deputising for His Majesty the King. Also attending was Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Minister of Youth Saleh Irsheidat and over 12,000 fans.

Although both teams seemed tense and played a slow unimpressive game in the first half, Jordan had an upper hand throughout the match as strikers Jiryes Tadros and Aref Hussein mounted repeated attacks hoping to score an early goal. However, Yemeni goalkeeper Ameen Sunaini successfully aborted all such attempts as the first half ended scoreless.

Jordan's captain Jamal Abu Abed had two definite scoring chances, as he got a pass just inside the penalty box, and later again failed to score from a corner kick that the Yemeni team's star Sunaini totally controlled.

Yemen accelerated their pace in the second half but were stunned by a spectacular 65th minute goal when Jordan's Subhi Suleiman faked a pass and blasted a powerful



Jiryes Tadros attempts to break Yemeni defense in Saturday's match between Jordanian and Yemeni national teams

shot from well outside the penalty box.

Both teams lost the efforts of a player each, as Yemen's Sharaf Mahfouz and Jordan's Mohammad Al Khazali got red-card bookings.

The Jordanian team continued to dominate but lost the opportunity to capitalise on two chances by Hisham Abdul Mun'em, one from a 30 metre distance in the 77th minute and the other four minutes later that hit the post.

With 2 minutes remaining in

the game and just as Jordan's players thought they had sealed a victory, Yemen got a corner kick which Wijdan Shazli converted in an equalising goal by a header in the 89th minute.

Teams:

Jordan: Ahmad Abu Nasouh, Youssef Al Amouri, Hisham Abdul Mun'em, Mohammad Mahadia, Jamal Abu Abed, Jiryes Tadros, Firas Khalalleh, Subhi Suleiman (Mousa

Awad), Munir Al Horani, Aref Hussein, Mohammad Al Khazali.

Yemen: Ameen Sunaini, Khalid Afarah, Saleh Ben Rab'la, Abu Ali Ghaleb, Abdul Rahman Sa'eed, Jamal Nadeem, Abdullah Khorbi (Ibrahim Sbuhi), Isam Dreiban, Sharaf Mahfouz, Wijdan Shazli, Abdallah Sana'ani (Ahmad Albreed).

Referee: Abdul Aziz Al Mulla (United Arab Emirates)

Marseille to face match-fixing inquiry

PARIS (R) — The French Soccer League said Saturday an inquiry would be held into an allegation that champions Marseille attempted to fix Thursday's match with Valenciennes.

A league spokesman said an investigation would start when he had received details of an official protest by Valenciennes.

The allegation, strongly denied by European Cup finalists Marseille, came from Valenciennes defender Jacques Glassmann

who said he had a phone conversation Wednesday with a Marseille official who offered him a bribe to take it easy in the match the following day.

League President Noel Le Graet told the sports daily L'Equipe he would take personal charge of the inquiry but said it would not open until after Wednesday's European Cup final

to avoid harming Marseille's preparations for the Munich match with AC Milan.

Marseille won the match 1-0, virtually sealing the title, while the defeat left Valenciennes in serious relegation trouble. Valenciennes lodged a protest with the match referee.

The French League leaders said the move was an attempt to destabilise them before the Euro-

pean Cup final.

Le Graet said it would be wise not to draw hasty conclusions and that he found it strange that such allegations should emerge just before a European Cup final.

"All this is nothing but a tissue of inventions," Marseille Vice-President Jean-Louis Levyreau said Friday. "It's an attempt to unsettle Marseille at an important moment in their history."

Mansell says he lost \$20 million by leaving F-1

INDIANAPOLIS (R) — World driving champion Nigel Mansell Friday estimated "conservatively" that he had lost \$20 million by coming to the United States to race.

"There are more things in life than money," said Mansell, who will compete in his first Indianapolis 500-mile race May 30. "If you're not honourable to yourself, you can't live with yourself."

Mansell won nine races and the title in 1992 in a Williams F-1 car powered by a French-built Renault engine. Mansell said it was on record that for 15 years it has been the French desire to win the World Championship with a French driver.

So, Alain Prost, who sat out last season, was the driver the team wanted as number one. "Prost was controlling it," Mansell explained. "I don't want to work for anybody who wants to control you."

"Ayrton (Senna), Prost, (Nelson) Piquet, (Nikki) Lauda are great drivers on the track. It's how they operate off the track."

"I detected shenanigans. It seems most world championships can be bought. Alain was getting the best seat in Formula One after being sacked."



Britain's Nigel Mansell and his wife drive through the pit area during a practice run for the 77th Indianapolis 500 to be held May 30 (AFP photo)

Mansell said he was turned off by the F-1 politics.

"I won 14 races in two years and the world championship," he said, "and then got blown out of the water again. It was political."

The 39-year-old Englishman said he had been looking into IndyCar racing for the past 2 1/2 years after he left Ferrari in 1990.

Mansell said qualifying at Indy only days after undergoing back surgery was the toughest thing he'd ever done. On his second attempt, he earned a starting spot in the middle of the third row.

He suffered the injury when he crashed during practice for the Phoenix 200, his first attempt to race on an oval track.

"When I look back on it, I've

got to be reasonably kind to myself," he said about his qualification run. "This is (teammate) Mario Andretti's 28th Indy. If I had started and tested and tested, my back never would have made it."

After qualifying, Mansell returned to his home in Clearwater, Florida, and resumed therapy for his back. This included ice packs, hot blankets, ultrasound, massage, swimming and long walks.

"I can get in and out of the car now," he said. "I think because I'm a little older, this is the worst accident I've had."

Mansell, who drives for the Newman-Haas team, turned a lap at 224.215 mph (360.83 kph) Fri-

day in his Lola-Ford cosworth and said he isn't paying much attention to speeds of other drivers. Only eight this year have gone faster.

"You can do what the car can do," he said. "My satisfaction comes in doing the best I can do on that day."

He said he has learned that at Indy the weather can change hour by hour and another "huge change" occurs from one set of tyres to the next.

"Keeping it flat down is an exercise I haven't accomplished yet," he said about pushing on the throttle.

No other driver has claimed to have done that either this May, Mansell intends to practise at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway then return home for additional therapy. He'll be back at the track for carburetion day practice next Thursday.

"I'm not even going to focus on the race until next Thursday, Friday or Saturday," he said. "I'm astonished I'm in the (IndyCar) points lead. Not being pessimistic, but I won't be in the points lead after this race. I'm being realistic."

"Winning this one would be unbelievable."

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
AND TAMAR HIRSCH
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THE LAW OF TOTAL TRICKS

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 7 4 2
♥ 5
♦ K 10 9 7
♣ K 8 7 5 4

EAST
♠ J 10 5 3
♥ A 9 8 4 2
♦ A Q
♣ 9 8

WEST
♠ J 10 5 3
♥ A 9 8 4 2
♦ A Q
♣ 9 8

EAST
♠ K Q J
♥ 6 5 4 3 2
♦ K J 6 2
♣ A Q 8 6

South
♠ A K Q 8 6
♥ 10 7 6 3
♦ J 8
♣ A 10

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ 2 ♣ 4 ♣
4 ♠ Dbl Pass Pass
Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♣.
About 25 years ago Jean Rene Vermees wrote an article called "The Law of Total Tricks." It attracted little attention then and, despite overwhelming proof of its accuracy, there are still many doubters. However, an excellent book on the subject is now on the market: *The Law of Total Tricks* by Larry Cohen (Platinum Press, 272 pp., paperback). Available from the author, 181 Longhill Rd., Bldg. 1-6, Little Falls, N.J. 07424. \$11.95 plus \$2.50 postage and handling.

The LAW of Total Tricks states

simply: "The total number of tricks available on any deal is equal to the total number of trumps (of each side's best combined fit)." This book is not for the casual player. However, it is guaranteed to sharpen the competitive bidding of anyone who takes the trouble to read and digest the contents.

Cohen cites hundreds of hands from all levels of play to support the accuracy of the LAW (author's capital). For example, consider this hand from the 1978 World Pairs. The eventual winners, Marcelo Branco and Gabino Cintra of Brazil, bid to four spades and, after the lead of the ace of hearts, should have been defeated one trick. They weren't, but that's immaterial.

Should South have gone on to four spades? The LAW says no—he should have doubled four hearts instead. North was likely to hold three spades and one heart; thus each side had eight trumps in their combined holding, making a combined total of 16 trumps. If only 16 tricks were available, and if North-South were destined to take 10 in spades, four hearts was going down four tricks! A double would have paid off without the risk of trying for game. As the cards lie, North-South can be held to nine tricks and East-West to seven, and with a total of 16 tricks available on the deal, can anyone really question the validity of the LAW?

TODAY

Cinema **CONCORD** Tel.: 677420
DOC HOLLYWOOD
Shows: 3:15, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel.: 699238
SUMMER SCHOOL
Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 4:45, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **PHILADELPHIA** Tel.: 634144
Desperately Seeking Suzan
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Nabil Al Mashini Theatre Tel.: 675571
Today the Nabil Mashini Theatre hosts
Al Fawaris Troupe acting
in a play entitled:
Death of Taybeh
By: Suheir Fahd, Mohammad Al Qabbani, Amer Al Khafash

Nabil & Hisham's Tel.: 625153
AHLAN THEATRE
presents
Welcome Parliament and Budget
On Mondays, Tuesdays and
Wednesdays At 9:00 p.m.
Welcome New World Order
On Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays
at 9:00 p.m.
Please make advance reservation

ICRC assails U.N. over Afghan conflict

GENEVA (AP) — A senior Red Cross official has criticised the United Nations for doing too little to stop the carnage in Afghanistan and predicted that a new ceasefire agreement would have little impact.

Jean-Michel Monod, head of Asian operations at the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), said the level of misery in the capital Kabul was "intolerable."

He said more than 4,500 civilians had been injured and an estimated 1,000 people killed in Kabul over the past 10 days.

"This indiscriminate shelling is hitting everywhere in the city," he told a news conference. "All areas have been hit. All hospitals have been hit. Everybody is shooting at everybody else, with devastating results."

Mr. Monod said the fighting — the worst since the ouster of President Najibullah in April 1992 — was meant to strengthen bargaining positions at peace talks among the rebel factions.

The talks in the eastern city of Jalalabad ended Thursday with agreement on a ceasefire and a new cabinet. Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Masoud — the rival of Prime Minister-designate Gulbuddin Hekmatyar — agreed to stand down. The fighting in Kabul has pitted Mr. Masoud's forces against those loyal to Mr.

Hekmatyar.

The warring factions continued to shell Kabul even after announcing the ceasefire.

Mr. Monod said the Jalalabad agreement was likely to have the same effect as previous accords negotiated in neighbouring Pakistan.

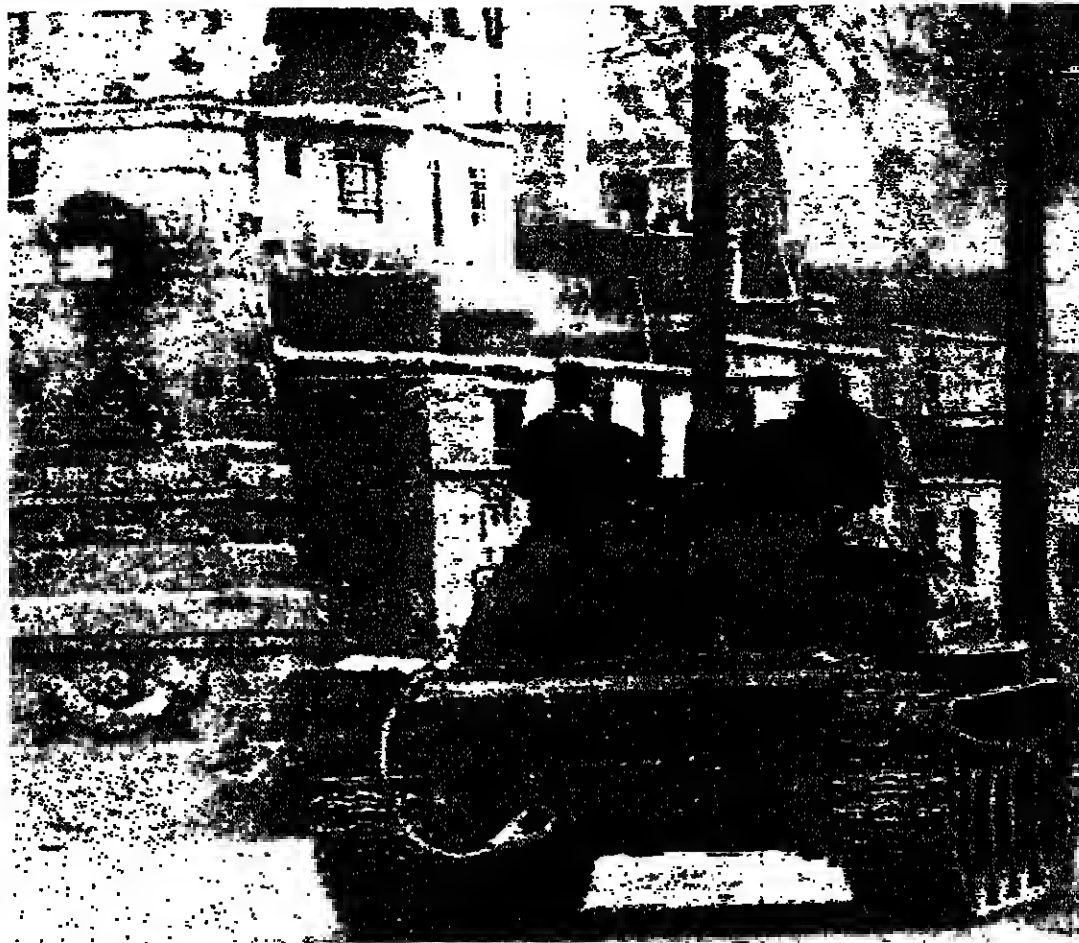
"It will temporarily bring some quiet to Kabul, but it certainly won't have a long-lasting effect," he said.

He said the United Nations had done too little to support regional peace initiatives to stop the factional fighting since the end of communist rule.

"It's good the regional powers — Pakistan, Iran and Saudi Arabia — are trying to push the protagonists in the direction of a lasting ceasefire but they need help," he said.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros Ghali has proposed that the United States and Russia should join in a grouping called "Friends of Afghanistan" to try to end the fighting. However, Mr. Monod said no action had so far been taken.

Security concerns prompted the United Nations to withdraw its expatriate staff from Kabul last August. Most foreign embassies are closed and virtually all aid agencies have pulled out. International appeals for funds to help victims of the civil war have



Soldiers manning a Defence Ministry tank look on as a rocket Saturday hits a residential area in Kabul

received practically no response.

The ICRC, which traditionally operates in areas of armed conflict, is now responsible for nearly all the relief efforts in Kabul. It has 15 Swiss staff there and runs

two of the capital's five remaining hospitals. It sends in 30 tonnes of food every week by road from Pakistan.

Mr. Monod said there was no power or water and little food,

but no signs yet of starvation.

"The ICRC is roughly the last organisation present," Mr. Monod said. "We feel a little bit lonesome in Kabul these days."

Regime's jet bombs Kabul 'by mistake'

KABUL (Agencies) — A government plane bombed a residential neighbourhood by mistake Saturday, killing a 14-year-old girl and injuring eight other people, officials and residents said.

The aircraft dropped four bombs on the poor neighbourhood of Formulia in south central Kabul, destroying a clay brick house. Three more bombs were dropped on a nearby vacant lot.

"I was so afraid. It was such a loud explosion," said Abdul Aziz, a butcher whose house next door was damaged.

His neighbour's 14-year-old daughter was killed and a 10-year-old son's arm was ripped off by shrapnel, Mr. Aziz said.

The Defence Ministry said the bombing was a mistake and the pilot was under investigation.

The plane's target was apparently positions on the other side of the mountain on which Formulia is located. Often the planes, flying very high to elude anti-aircraft guns, miss their targets.

At least 500 people have been killed and more than 5,000 injured in Kabul during the last two weeks in a fratricidal war for control of the Defence Ministry.

Almost all the civilian victims have been killed by rockets fired by militias in the southern suburbs of Kabul or in the overlooking mountains.

The government halted air strikes on positions of the radical Hezb-e-Islami party after Saturday's bombing, but rocket and artillery fire continued to pound the city.

Weeping women tore their hair while men dug through rubble in the old city to find people who might be still buried.

One man returned from hospital with his year-old son, the baby's head bandaged after he was hurt when his home collapsed.

Government jets have made dozens of raids against Hezb-e-Islami and its Shiite Hezb-e-Wahdat allies since artillery battles for control of the capital erupted 11 days ago.

"The jet was trying to hit a Hezb-e-Islami post on a nearby hill. They are shelling the city from there," Defence Ministry spokesman Yunis Qanuni said. "One bomb was mistakenly dropped on a residential area."

He said an inquiry would be held.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) says the capital's hospitals have treated an average of 500 injured every day since this latest round of fighting began.

Between 80 and 100 rockets have rained on the capital daily in the last seven days, destroying houses in most parts of the city.

COLUMN I

Britain's Queen Mother spends 2nd night in hospital

ABERDEEN, Scotland (AP) — The Queen Mother spent a second night in the hospital Friday following surgery to remove a piece of food which stuck in her throat. "She is still listed as comfortable and is resting, and she will be staying one more night in hospital, and her condition will be assessed in the morning by her doctors," said Alan Reid, spokesman at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary. The hospital was flooded with telephone calls and flowers from Britons concerned about the 92-year-old widow of King George VI and mother of Queen Elizabeth II. None of the royal family came to the hospital Friday. Prince Charles told reporters in London that his grandmother "is better, thank goodness."

Rare print of U.S. Declaration of Independence sold

NEW YORK (AP) — A rare original print of the declaration of independence was sold privately Friday for an undisclosed price after failing to meet its minimum reserve price at an auction earlier in the day. The broadsheet, only one of two still in private hands, was purchased by a rare documents dealer in New Jersey. A spokeswoman said the purchase was made on behalf of an undisclosed client and she would not give the purchase price. The document was one of those printed by John Dunlap on the evening of July 4, 1776, to spread the word of Congress's action. The private transaction was done shortly after bidding at a Sotheby's auction stopped at \$1.75 million, well below the reserve price. Sotheby's had estimated the document would sell for between \$2 million to \$3 million. A manuscript with some of Abraham Lincoln's strongest indictments of slavery was more successful, selling at the same auction for \$992,500. The one-page manuscript in Lincoln's hand is part of a speech that has been lost. Written around 1838, it says in part that "although volume upon volume is written to prove slavery a very good thing, we never hear of the man who wishes to take the good of it, by being a slave himself."

Moon's shadow races over earth in partial eclipse

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Sky-watchers from California and Alaska to Finland saw a partial eclipse of the sun Friday as the moon's shadow passed over North America, the Arctic and northernmost Europe. "The weather was perfect and we could see it really well," said astronomer Juhani Harjunharja, who watched the moon obscure 39 per cent of the sun from Utsjok Observatory in northern Finland's Lapland. "It felt like the warm sunshine suddenly grew colder." The first solar eclipse visible from North America since Jan. 4, 1992, took place at sunrise along the west coast and later in the morning over more than half the continent. The moon's shadow then moved over the North Pole and into Norway, Sweden, Scotland, Finland and Russia. North America's best views were in Alaska, where up to two-thirds of the sun was blocked. "Oh, you've got to get a view through the scope — it's great," said Richard Pellessier, who watched from Earthquake Park in Anchorage as the eclipsed sun emerged from clouds. Bernadette Soter, 44, one of about two dozen people who watched the eclipse from the roof of Griffith Observatory in Los Angeles, said: "It makes me feel what my place is in the universe."

Ukrainian computer game simulates war with Russia

KIEV (R) — War has finally broken out between Russia and Ukraine over the disputed Black Sea Fleet — on a computer game used in bars in central Ukraine. The Kiev daily Nezavisimist reported Friday that the game, known as "Battle for the Black Sea," allows players to pit ships of the Russian Navy against a computer with the Ukrainian Navy at its disposal. "There are state flags, shooting and everything else you would get in a real war," the daily said of the game in the city of Kremenchuk. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, Russia and Ukraine have been at odds over the 380-ship Black Sea Fleet. Both sides have agreed to joint command of the fleet pending division of the equipment in 1995.

Sudan warns against any bid to intervene in South

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudan's Islamic fundamentalist government would send human waves against the guns of any army that tried to stop violence or provide safe areas in southern Sudan so that starving people can be fed, the foreign minister said.

"Intervention has been broached as a way of saving up to a million southern Sudanese facing possible death with international relief impeded by civil war and factional fighting among rebels."

Some have suggested a combination of two successful emergency relief operations of recent years.

One was the "safe haven" concept, which protected Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq from that country's army in 1991-92. Elijah

Malok, an official with the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), suggested at a news conference in the Kenyan capital Nairobi Thursday that a similar zone should be created in southern Sudan.

The other is Operation Restore Hope, in which U.S.-led forces invaded Somalia last December and kept violence at bay long enough to save hundreds of thousands of starving Somalis.

Donald Peterson, U.S. ambassador to Sudan, last month told reporters in Nairobi that the international community would have to act if peace talks between the government and rebels failed.

"If there is no progress toward a negotiated settlement, the international community will have to consider what should be done to

the awful suffering," he said.

Foreign Minister Hussein Suleiman Abu Salih alleged that the West, through its press and politicians, is waging a "stupid" campaign "to polarise world public opinion against Sudan for intervention" on humanitarian grounds.

But he said those who talk about intervening in Sudan are dreaming.

"They are misinformed on the Sudanese character and the nature of Islam in such matters," Mr. Abu Salih said in a television interview Friday night.

"There will be real jihad. There will be wave after wave of people fighting, not only a handful of soldiers or popular defence forces."

The junta, which took power in a 1989 coup, already has had

Muslim clerics declare the 10-year-old southern rebellion a holy war.

Mr. Abu Salih said Sudan never gives in to pressure and cited its current argument with Egypt over Halaib, an enclave in Egypt's extreme southeastern corner north of the international frontier.

He said Khartoum would be willing to cede rights to the disputed territory but accused Cairo of trying to bully its weaker southern neighbour with threats and troop movements.

With a more genteel approach, "we in the Sudan can give away this land, or even more," Mr. Abu Salih said. "But Sudan, its people and government, cannot relinquish an inch of land taken through force or twisting of the arm."

Russian hardliners campaign for constitution referendum

MOSCOW (R) — Hardline conservatives say they have gathered enough signatures to force a nationwide referendum on bringing back a "Soviet socialist constitution," the conservative daily Pravda reported Saturday.

Reformist President Boris Yeltsin is planning a new constitution which would distance Russia from its Soviet past.

But Pravda said the pro-Soviet organisation Workers' Russia had by May 16 gathered signatures from 1,090,000 opponents of Mr. Yeltsin's plans. Russian law allows a referendum to be called if one million people sign a petition asking for it.

"Parliamentary deputies are now bound to decide to hold nationwide discussions of a draft Soviet socialist constitution which guarantees a life fit for a human being to the working man," Pravda said.

"Yeltsin wants to end months of political stalemate over post-Soviet Russia's new draft constitution, blocked by a conservative parliament hostile to his radical economic reforms."

Buoyed by a popular endorsement of his presidency and reforms in an April referendum, Mr. Yeltsin has bypassed parliament and invited representatives from Russia's 88 regions to meet in Moscow on June 5 to discuss and perhaps pass a new constitution.

Hardline groups on the fringes of Russian politics said Friday they would hold their own rival constitutional conference at the same time. They would also invite regional representatives to Moscow to draw up a separate draft constitution.

Gennady Sayenko, a leading member of the conservative Russian Unity movement, told a news conference organisers of the hardliners' constitutional talks included his group, the National Salvation Front, and the officers' union.

Interfax news agency reported the National Salvation Front had said it would pick the city centre and state buildings on 5-12 June to protect the existing constitution, a much-amended version of the former Soviet Union basic law of 1971.

The hardline groups have kept a low profile since the Russian workers' holiday on May 1, when their supporters clashed with police in Moscow.

(Continued from page 1)

"Those whom I used to meet earlier remember how many times I have urged to rise above the level of insults and offence and to adopt a wise approach to defend what is right and to offer ideas and not to fall into the abyss...."

"In our dealing with one another we have to form what can be described as honesty and what can contribute to enhancing ties among the members of one family regardless of their origins."

"We have to create an approach reflecting the spirit of responsibility and we have to check whatever we publish and to

NEWS IN BRIEF

Italy's scandal probe likely to last until 1995

ROME (R) — Investigations into the political bribery scandal which has shaken Italy over the last 15 months are likely to go on until 1995, Milan chief prosecutor Francesco Saverio Borrelli has said. More help was needed to cope with a heavy and growing workload on the city's investigating magistrates, he told RAI state television Friday night. As he spoke, two former ministers were being officially notified of suspected involvement in corruption, judicial sources said. Both Oscar Mammì, a Republican ex-minister of posts and telecommunications, and Vincenzo Bono Parrino, a Social Democratic former cultural heritage minister, are suspected of having accepted bribes from government suppliers. Mr. Mammì immediately resigned from the Chamber of Deputies. Over 2,500 people, including more than 100 members of parliament, are under investigation in the scandal, which has provoked widespread public disgust and contributed to the runaway success of an electoral reform referendum last month. "The old reluctance of the public to come forward has vanished," said Mr. Borrelli. "We have lots of work in front of us just to complete investigations and then the trials and legal consequences will take several years more."

Indian army said equipped with new missile

NEW DELHI (R) — The Indian army has been equipped with a locally-built surface-to-surface missile after more than five years of tests, the Hindustan Times newspaper reported Saturday. The Prithvi missile, which has a range of 250 kilometres and can carry a payload of up to one tonne, has been deployed in Punjab state on the border with Pakistan, with which India has fought three wars, the newspaper said. Many of Pakistan's major cities and military installations would fall within the range of the missile, the Hindustan Times said. Military officials refused to comment on the report, but the Defence Ministry said in March that the weapon system would be deployed in the army by the end of the year. Prithvi, which means "Earth" in the Hindi language, was first developed in 1988 and has been flight-tested at least nine times. India has successfully tested an intermediate-range missile with a range of 2,400 kilometres, but says the system is for sending payloads into space and will not be used by the armed forces.

Canadian energy minister confers with Nazer

RIYADH (AP) — Oil Minister Hisham Nazer conferred Saturday with Canada's minister of energy, mines and resources, who is in Saudi Arabia to promote business for Canadian companies in the oil-rich region. The official Saudi Press Agency said the two ministers discussed bilateral ties, especially with relation to oil affairs, but gave no details. The Canadian, Bill McKnight, is accompanied by a delegation of Canadian business representatives and will also be briefly visiting Kuwait and Yemen before returning to Ottawa. "The businesses which are travelling with me... are all high-tech companies which have been developing trade contacts in this region," Mr. McKnight was quoted as saying by the Canadian embassy. The Canadian companies include members of the petroleum processing and engineering, and mineral sectors, including Delta Catalytic, MacDonald Dettwiler and Associates, Monenco Agra, SNC-Lavalin Inc. and Zetco Inc. While in Saudi Arabia, Mr. McKnight will open a research and process simulation plant constructed by Zetco Inc. of Burlington, at the King Abdul Aziz City for Science and Technology.

Indian foreign affairs official in Oman

MUSCAT, Oman (AP) — India's minister of state for foreign affairs arrived Saturday on a visit to promote political and economic relations and pave the way for a trip by Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao later this year. The minister, R.L. Bhatia, was met on arrival by Hisham Ben Tareq Al Saeed, political affairs undersecretary at the Omani Foreign Ministry. He later met with Sultan Qaboos. According to Asian diplomats, Mr. Rao planned to visit Oman, but the date of the trip has not been fixed. Mr. Bhatia also will visit the United Arab Emirates, but it was not clear if Mr. Rao also planned to go there. Omani-Indian cooperation in petrochemical and gas projects was high on Mr. Bhatia's agenda, said the diplomats. In March this year, Oman signed a memorandum of understanding for setting up two oil refineries in India.

King warns against 'enemies of democracy'

(Continued from page 1)

"I do not believe that any one of my brothers here... by the way I am addressing all people through you... would be happy with anything contrary to this or would allow himself to adopt other than this course."

"Once again I stress that there is a law and people have obligations to this country and have duties to perform... I implore God to help us to carry out our duty in the best manner we can."

The King later reviewed with the gathering various local, re-

gional and international issues. The King reiterated Jordan's firm position with regard to domestic developments based on steadfastness, clarity of political stand and adherence to the principles of freedom, democracy and pluralism in the course of defending human rights.

The King also referred to Jordan's position with regard to the Palestine question based on pan-Arab principles and the country's determination to attain "just and comprehensive peace that can guarantee the rights of the Palestinian people in their national soil and acceptable to the future generations."

FBI says blast suspects' prints found on seized bomb elements

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) lab reports revealed Friday that fingerprints of two key suspects in the World Trade Centre bombing were found on bomb-making materials seized at a Jersey City storage locker several days after the blast.

The reports said the fingerprints of Mohammad Salameh were found on a bottle of shotgun powder, a bag of the chemical ammonium nitrate, and on a brown bottle of a chemical known as aniline reagent.

A copy of the report was made available to Reuters by a source close to the case.

Mr. Salameh's fingerprints were also discovered on duct tape, a glass beaker, a clear plastic bottle and other items in the shed, according to the April 15 lab report.

The FBI investigation of the Feb. 26 explosion, in which six people died and over 1,000 were injured, was codenamed "Tradebom" in the confidential reports.

Two fingerprints of a missing suspect, Ramzi Yousef, were also found on a brown bottle of sodium azide.

Robert Precht, the lawyer for Mr. Salameh, has said that his client rented the storage locker but that it was being used to store personal items.

"He has never denied being present in the storage facility and has always said he was there in connection with an activity he believed to be completely innocent," said Mr. Precht.

The lawyer said that the activity will be revealed at Mr. Salameh's trial.

On Tuesday, Reuters learned that the FBI had a list of 18 individuals whose fingerprints they were trying to match up with evidence obtained in the bombing.

Six suspects, including Mr. Salameh and Mr. Yousef, are on that list.

In another report, the FBI disclosed that investigators found \$2,615 in U.S. currency and a small amount of Jordanian and Iraqi currency during their searches.



Egyptian police experts examine the Cairo site where a car bomb exploded Friday (AFP photo)

Cairo blast death toll rises to 7

CAIRO (Agencies) — The death toll from Egypt's bloodiest bombing in more than a year of political violence rose to seven Saturday when three critically-injured men died.

The government accused Muslim militants of planting the bomb, which exploded either under or inside a car parked outside a police station in central Cairo Friday.

But a known supporter of the main militant group, Al Gama'a Al Islamiya (Islamic Group), denied it had been involved and said it would not risk the lives of ordinary Egyptians.

Security sources said one of the three men who died Saturday was the brother of a girl who was killed instantly when the bomb blew up. They said 20 people were now known to have been injured and several were in critical condition.

The sources said investigators had found the detonator of the bomb and a timer. They estimated the bomb had contained 1.5 to two kilograms of explosives.

"This is a clear criminal work carried out by the terrorist groups, which have no religious aims whatsoever," the head of the state information service, Mamdouh Beltagi, told Reuters. Asked whether Muslim militants had been responsible, Major-General Fouad Hussain, Cairo's assistant police chief, told

Reuters: "There is no other possibility."

But a known supporter of the Gama'a contacted by Reuters said the group had nothing to do with the blast.

"We are not responsible for this incident," he said. "We cannot hurt ordinary Egyptians." The man asked not to be identified.

The explosion was the fifth extremist attack since December in the heart of the Egyptian capital and the bloodiest. It is the first time a car bomb has been used in more than a year of violence between Muslim extremists and security forces.

Security and hospitals officials said the number of wounded rose to 20.

A spokesman at Kasr Al Aini hospital said Abdallah Rashad, 5, died from a brain injury. His brother Sayyed, 20, from internal hemorrhage in the chest, and Hani Fadel, 20, also from a head wound.

The official said a 15-year-old girl who died Friday was the Rashads' sister. Three others died the same day.

Doctors said at least five other victims were in critical condition. Police detained the owner of the car and another man arrested at the scene to question them about possible links with extremists.

The government-owned Al

Gomhuria newspaper quoted security officials as saying the owner of the vehicle is a professor at Al Azhar, Islam's highest learning institution. He told police he had parked the car behind the police station two days before the explosion and left for his town in the Nile Delta.

Police said the bomb was packed with nails and doctors said they extracted some from victims' bodies.

On Feb. 26, hours after the World Trade Centre bombing killed six people and wounded more than 1,000 in New York, a similar device exploded in a downtown Cairo cafe, killing three people and wounding more than a dozen. Two of the dead were foreign tourists.

Also Friday, an employee at Cairo airport found a rifle wrapped in cloth hidden in a communications room on the runway. Police are investigating.

In the town of Damietta on the Mediterranean, a boy found a box filled with gunpowder and ammunition in front of a school.

Al Gama'a Al Islamiya has intensified its violence campaign against Egypt's secular government since January 1992. It has attacked police, Christians and a year ago started targeting tourists. More than 150 people have died in the violence, most of them militants.